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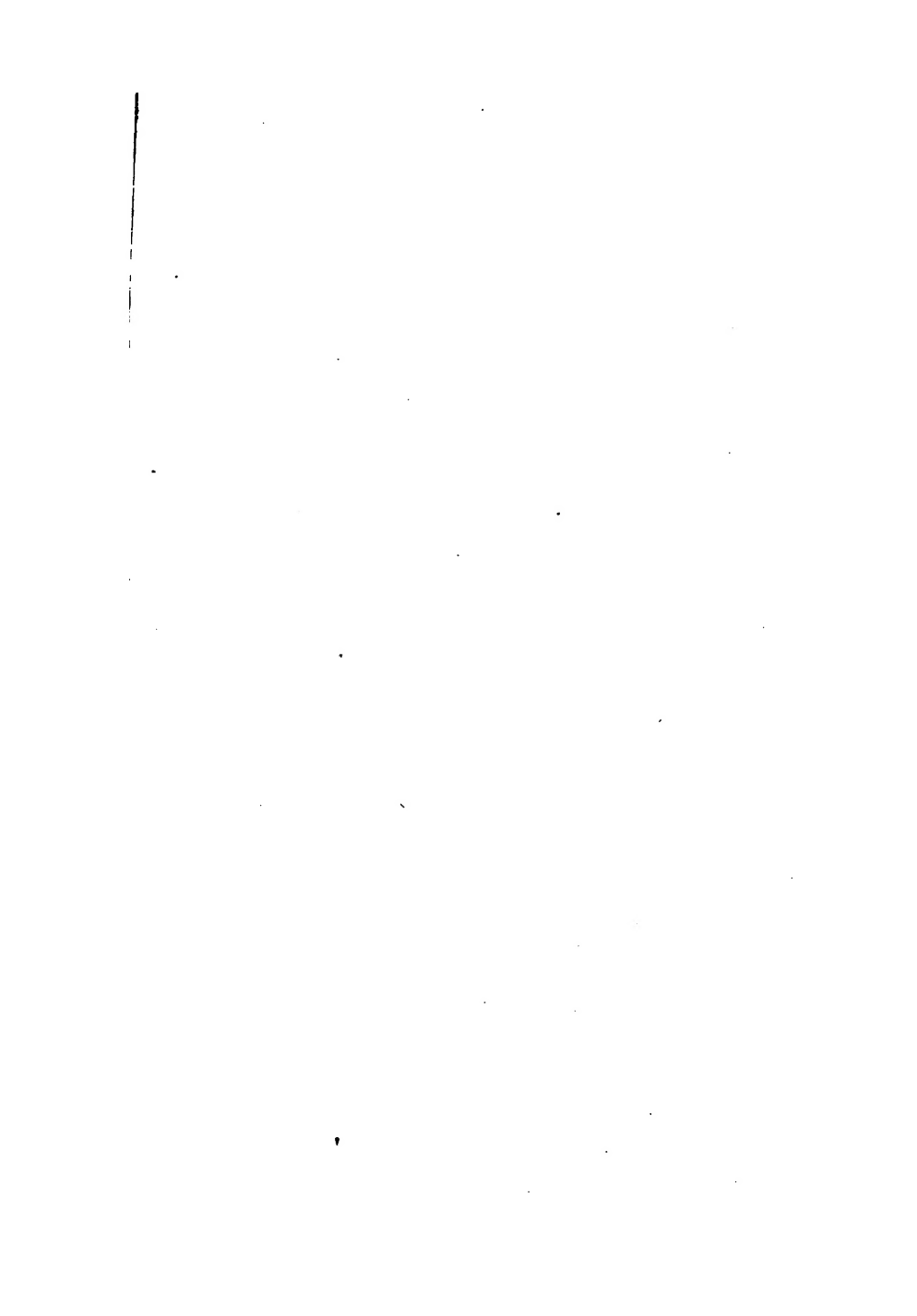


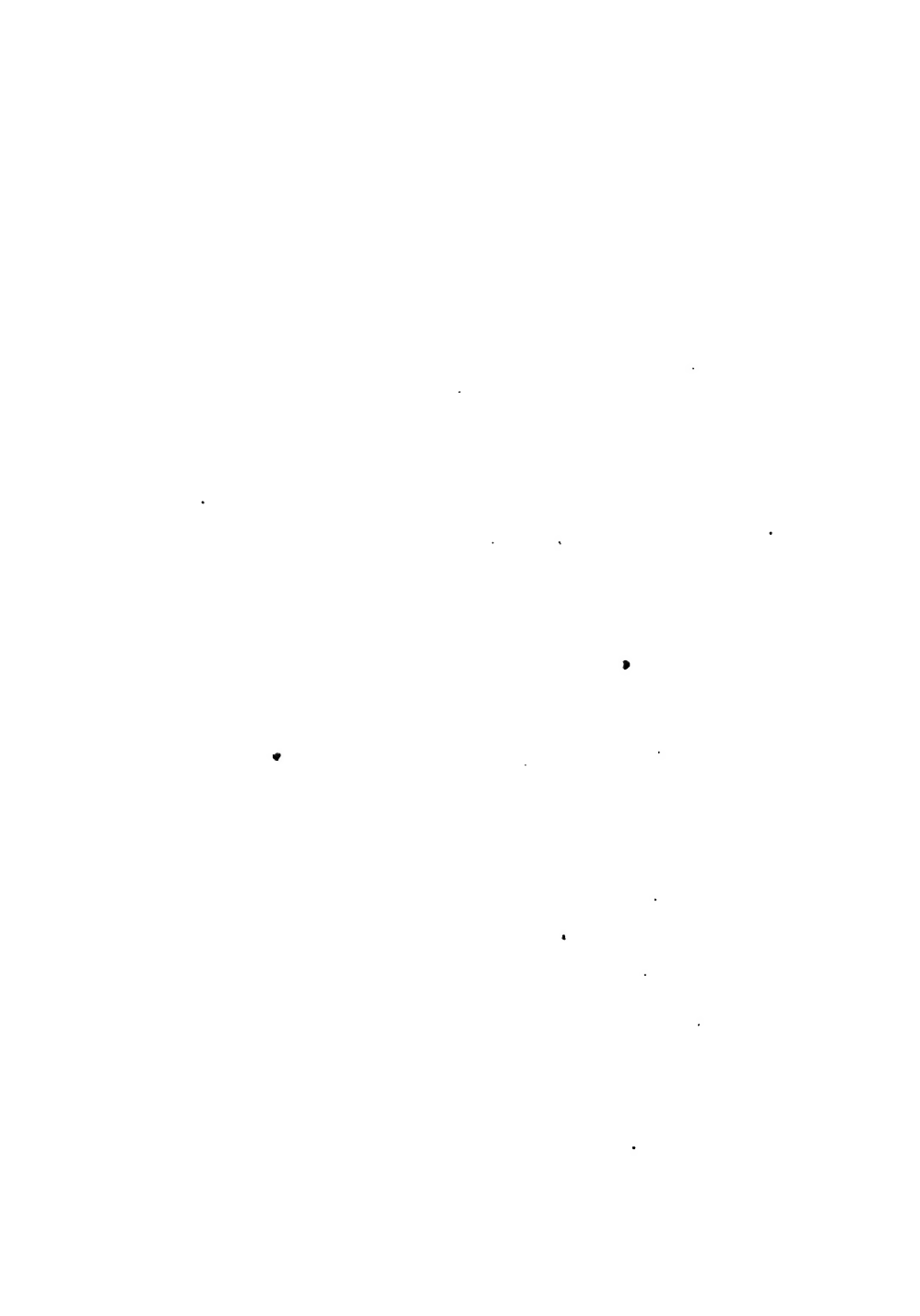
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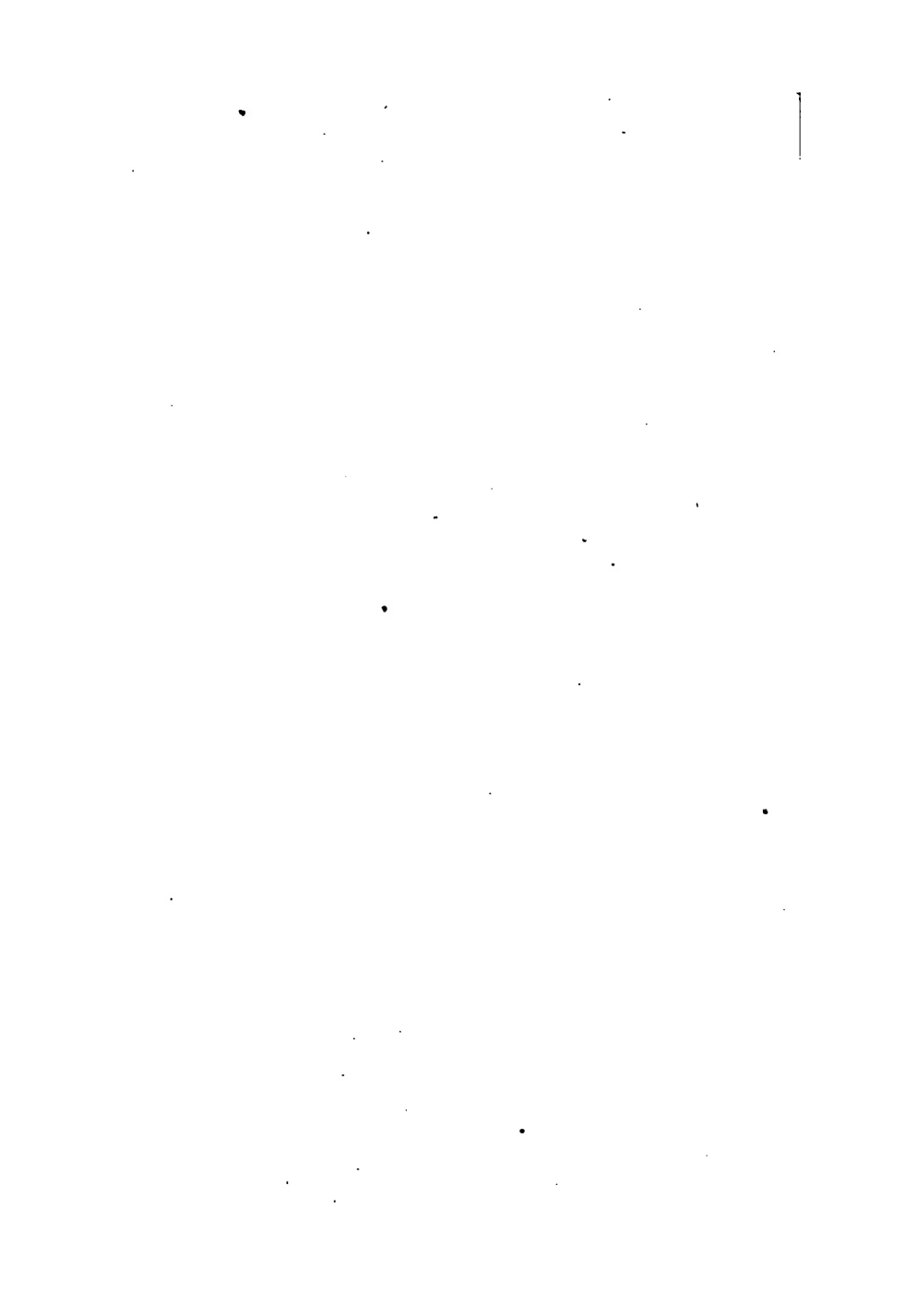
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COLUMBUS AND HIS MUTINOUS MEN.

AMERICAN HISTORY

by

Jacob Abbott.

I

ILLUSTRATED
WITH NUMEROUS MAPS AND ENGRAVINGS.

**VOL. II.
DISCOVERY OF AMERICA.**

NEW YORK :

New York :

Sheldon & Company.

Boston: Gould & Lincoln.



H.

ABBOTT'S AMERICAN HISTORIES.

I.—ABORIGINAL AMERICA.

II.—DISCOVERY OF AMERICA.

III.—THE SOUTHERN COLONIES.

IV.—THE NORTHERN COLONIES.

V.—WAR OF THE COLONIES.

VI.—REVOLT OF THE COLONIES.

380708

Entered according to Act of Congress, in the year 1860, by

JACOB ABBOTT,

In the Clerk's Office of the District Court of the United States, for the
Southern District of New York.

Stereotyped by
SMITH & McDOUGAL,
84 Beekman-st.

Printed by
C. S. WATSCOTT & Co.,
79 John-st.

P R E F A C E .

a desire for further instruction in respect to it. While it is doubtless true that such a subject can really be grasped only by minds in some degree mature, still the author believes that many young persons, especially such as are intelligent and thoughtful in disposition and character, may derive both entertainment and instruction from a perusal of these pages.

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DISCOVERY OF AMERICA.

CHAPTER I.

GREENLAND.

A CONNECTING LINK BETWEEN THE OLD WORLD AND THE NEW.

THE great connecting link between the old world and the new, not only in respect to the transmission of plants and animals, but also for man, has always been found in the cold and barren but still magnificent promontory of Greenland. This promontory insinuates itself like a wedge between the island of Iceland, the Feroe Islands, and the coast of Norway, on the one side, and the American shores on the other, and in connection with them forms a series of stepping-stones, or rather of stations, by means of which countless thousands of bears, seals, walruses, foxes, dogs, and other Arctic mammals, and countless millions of gulls, geese, auks, and other far-flying aquatic birds, some through the water, others through the air, and others upon vast fields of ice, either fixed or

moving, have been continually passing to and fro. There are scarcely any coasts in the world more teeming with animal life than these sterile and ice-bound shores.

THE MEDUSAE.

Almost all these animals are beasts and birds of prey, and they derive their sustenance mainly from the sea—the land furnishing very scanty means of supporting life. The ultimate source from which the food of all the Arctic animals comes, and which from its abundance is the cause of the extreme prolificness of life in all those regions, is derived from the vast numbers of *medusae* with which the seas in those latitudes are filled.

The medusae are jelly fishes. There is a very large class of these animals, known to naturalists by the name of *Acalephae*. This is a Greek word, meaning *nettles*. This name is given to the class from the fact that some of the species have the power of producing a stinging sensation on being touched in the water, or held in the hand. These stinging species are common upon our coasts, and the boys often encounter them in bathing. They call them *sea-nettles*, *sting-galls*, and by other

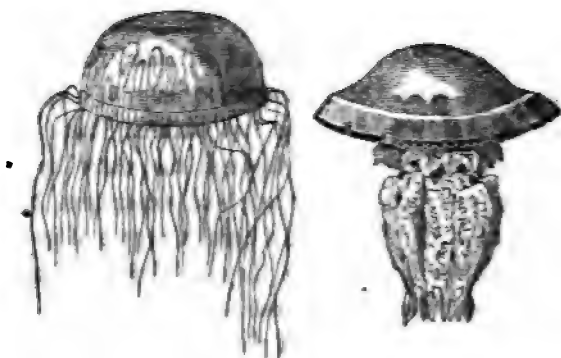
such names. The whole class of Medusae are called by sailors jelly-fishes, or sea-blubber.

These animals have a very singular appearance when swimming in the water. The different species are of various forms and of all sizes, but they all seem to consist of a transparent jelly, of a symmetrical and curious form, but without limbs or members, and they move through the water by a series of alternate contractions and expansions, by means of which they make a certain degree of progress, though in the main they are drifted to and fro wherever the tides and currents bear them.

The substance of which they are composed, as has already been said, consists of a transparent jelly, but it is sometimes adorned with curious and beautiful tints of color, and certain lines are seen in some cases ramifying through it, forming a net-work of a very geometrical character, and denoting the complete organization of the mass.

Some of the species have a sort of fringe of hairs, like little snakes, which hang from the margin of the cup-shaped disc that is formed by their bodies, and float writhing and twisting in the water, as the cup, by alternate expansions and contractions, forces its way along. It is from this circumstance that they have received their name of Medusae—Medusa having been a fabled mon-

ster of ancient times, whose head was adorned with snakes instead of hair.



SPECIES OF MEDUSAE

Many of the medusae are phosphorescent, and these luminous species are sometimes so numerous that the whole surface of the ocean glows with them at night, as if the waves were undulations of liquid fire.

The different species vary extremely, both in form and in size. Some are so minute as not to be seen by the naked eye, in consequence of which it often happens that curious persons, seeing some evening the whole surface of the sea glowing with the light which they produce, are surprised to find

nothing visible in the water, when they draw up a bucket full of it to the deck of the ship, in order to ascertain the cause.

Others of the medusae are of great size and strength. They will seize and devour fishes of considerable magnitude, and yet their bodies contain so little substance that when drawn up upon the beach they look like a mere mass of jelly, and on being exposed for a short time to the sun and air almost entirely dry up and disappear, leaving nothing behind them but a thin filmy web, wholly shapeless and unmeaning.

For some reason or other animals of this class swarm in countless millions in all the northern seas. So dense are the schools sometimes that the whole color of the sea, for hundreds of miles, is changed by them. They furnish, of course, immense quantities of food for whales and other cetaceous animals, and also for fishes of all kinds, which in their turn give sustenance to bears, seals, walruses, and multitudes of other animals. All these animals are provided with warm coats, either of fur for the land or of blubber for the water, to enable them to endure the intense cold of the dreary region which thus furnishes them with such exhaustless supplies of food.

PERPETUAL DAY FOR SEVERAL

In these polar regions there is, strictly speaking, neither day nor night, but only mornings and evenings, as it were, for the sun never rises higher than a few degrees above the horizon, nor sinks more than a few degrees below. It is, therefore, never very dark at any period of the day or of the year. On the shores of Baffin's Bay it has been found, in the experience of ships wintering there, that in mid-winter, and at the part of the day when the sun is furthest below the horizon, the twilight is so bright that the finest print can be read by it.

Of course, the brightness of this midnight twilight varies with the latitude. The further north we go, and the less the altitude which the sun attains in rising above the horizon, the less is his depression when he sinks below it. Thus, by a beautiful compensation, what would otherwise be the intolerable gloom of a so long protracted period of darkness and cold is greatly diminished.

In addition to this perpetual twilight the motions of the electric currents, and the extraordinary play of mists and vapors in the air, give rise to halos, parhelia, luminous meteors and corruscations of the aurora borealis in great abundance, by

which the aspect of the sky, during the long period of the absence of the sun, is greatly enlivened and cheered.

ICE PRODUCED UPON THE LAND.

The great means of intercommunication between the different coasts and islands of these northern seas is the ice. This ice is of two different kinds—that which is formed upon the land and that which is formed upon the sea.

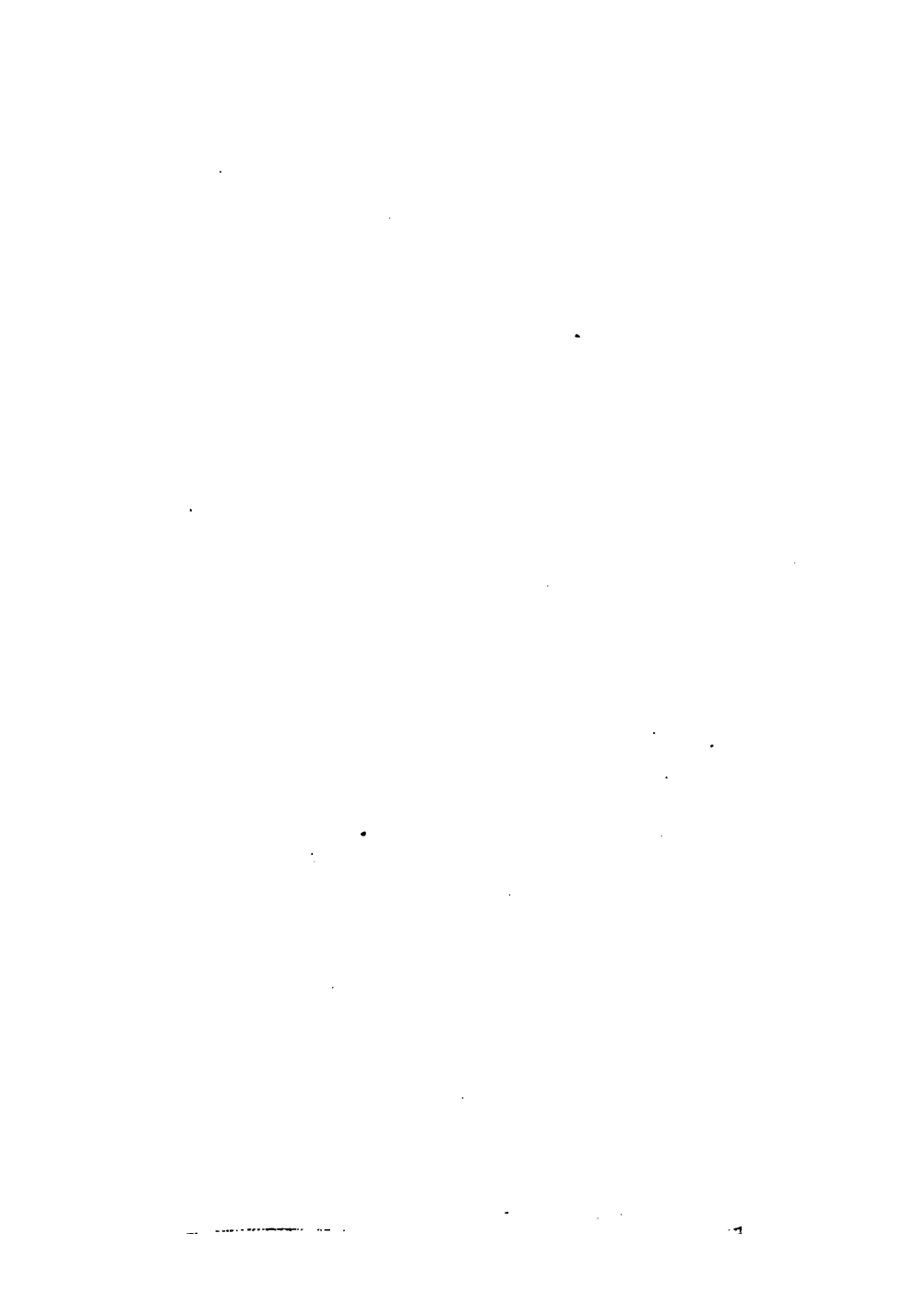
Upon the land the rains and snows of a vast succession of seasons accumulate, and form beds of solid ice called glaciers, which increase until they become not unfrequently thousands of feet in thickness. These glaciers fill the valleys, and sometimes occupy immense slopes of land declining toward the sea. They are formed wherever there is a tract so situated, in respect to higher land surrounding it, that it can retain the snow that is driven into it by the winds, or that slides into it in avalanches, and also receive the water of the summer streams. The effect of time and cold is to cement all these supplies—rain, snow, sleet and hail—into one solid mass of homogeneous ice, which, however, is nevertheless, notwithstanding its solidity, subject to a slow motion like that of lava nearly cooled, which, though men can travel over

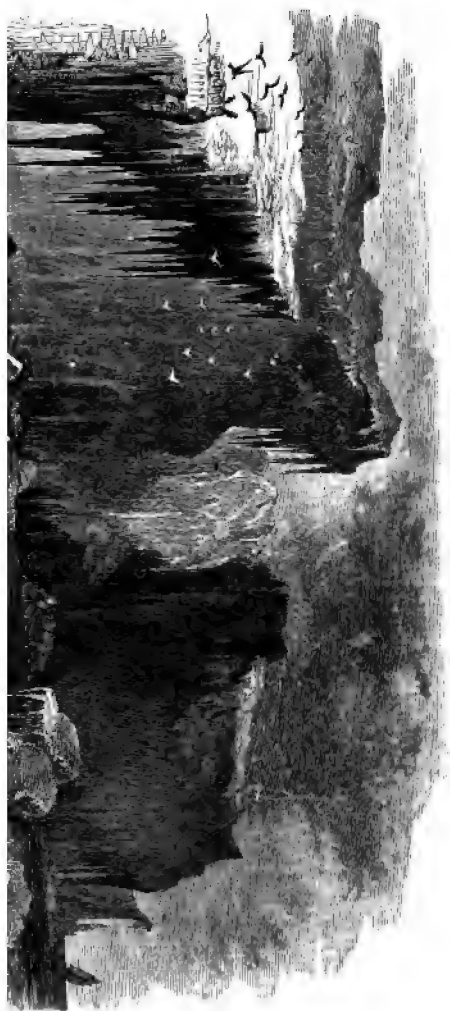
it in safety, and it will bear very heavy weights upon its surface, still moves slowly, and indeed almost imperceptibly, onward.

The motion of the ice in glaciers is exceedingly slow—so slow that, notwithstanding the creaking and grinding sounds which are continually heard upon it, and the constant protrusion of its lower end through the soil, and even into the forests of the lower valleys, it was a long time before mankind could be convinced of the reality of it. It is now, however, not only positively known that it moves, but the rate of its progress has been exactly measured. In Switzerland, the average flow is about an inch an hour in the summer season. As, however, the motion varies very much according to the temperature of the air, in Greenland it must be much slower. It is well for voyagers passing to and fro across the Atlantic Ocean that it is so.

FORMATION OF ICEBERGS.

Whenever a glacier like those above described abuts upon the sea, the slow motion of the mass above and behind crowds the termination of it out over the water, until undermined by the waves, and borne down by the superincumbent weight, immense masses break off and fall over and are borne away by the currents and tides. The fall





of one of these mountains produces, in the stillness of the Arctic night, a sound like that of thunder, and the vast undulation of the sea occasioned by the fall rocks the ships of whalers or of explorers at a distance of many miles in the offing.

It is thus that the icebergs are formed, which add so much to the danger of crossing the Atlantic, and which probably explain the mystery in which is involved the fate of the large number of vessels that, after leaving the land in safety, are never heard of again.

These icebergs, however, so dangerous to navigators on the open sea, are the friends and protectors of ships exploring the Arctic shores, affording them, as they so often do, a sure and efficient shelter from fields and packs of ice which come sweeping over the sea with a slow but inconceivably destructive force, that nothing but a rock or an iceberg can withstand.

ICE FORMED UPON THE SEA.

The ice that is formed upon the sea is flat and level and comparatively thin. It is seldom more than from ten to fifteen feet in thickness. It drifts to and fro through the Arctic seas wherever the winds and the currents bear it, moving always with immense force, sometimes in vast and sudden

snow fields, sometimes in broken packs wedged together and piled up in lofty heaps, and sometimes in detached and scattered floes. It carries with it stones, drift wood, and animals of various kinds. The drift wood it collects for itself from the supplies brought by the currents of the ocean from more southern climates. The stones fall upon it from the icebergs. Animals travel over it when it is fast to the shore, and then, when the tide or the wind or the set of the current breaks it up, they are taken with it and borne away.

CURRENTS IN THE NORTHERN SEAS.

In other parts of the world the movements of the ocean in the flow of tides and currents are silent and unseen, but in the Arctic seas the presence of the ice makes them all manifest to the senses of the observer in the most imposing manner. The majestic march of the immense floes, as they are seen sometimes, grinding their resistless way along a rocky shore, sometimes struggling against each other in a conflict continued for many hours, and piling up immense heaps of broken ice along the line of collision for many miles; sometimes crowding through narrow passages, and then again sweeping down in an immense stream, hundreds of leagues in length, toward the open sea, pre-

sents one of the grandest spectacles which nature anywhere affords, and the solemn sounds emitted by those stupendous movements, in the stillness of an Arctic night, strike all who witness them with an indescribable awe.

The movements to and fro of these immense masses of ice, when free, and the bridging of the waters which they effect when fixed, have exercised a great influence upon the distribution of plants and animals in America, and may have been the first means of introducing man.

THE FIRST RECORDED MIGRATION TO AMERICA.

The first case, however, which is historically recorded of a passage to Greenland from the European shores was that of a man driven across in a vessel by a storm. The name of this adventurer was Gunbiorn. He lived in Iceland, and was blown off from that island by a gale of wind, and after visiting the shores of Greenland, and finding them inhabited by men—who must, of course, have preceded him ages before, but who had left no record of their migration—succeeded in finding his way back to Iceland again. This took place in the year 910, which was something like fifty years after Iceland itself was first discovered and settled by the Norwegians and Danes.

it in safety, and it will bear very heavy weights upon its surface, still moves slowly, and indeed almost imperceptibly, onward.

The motion of the ice in glaciers is exceedingly slow—so slow that, notwithstanding the creaking and grinding sounds which are continually heard upon it, and the constant protrusion of its lower end through the soil, and even into the forests of the lower valleys, it was a long time before mankind could be convinced of the reality of it. It is now, however, not only positively known that it moves, but the rate of its progress has been exactly measured. In Switzerland, the average flow is about an inch an hour in the summer season. As, however, the motion varies very much according to the temperature of the air, in Greenland it must be much slower. It is well for voyagers passing to and fro across the Atlantic Ocean that it is so.

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Besides, these Northmen, as they were called, were as bold and adventurous sailors as the world has ever seen. Considering how few of the facilities which are enjoyed at the present day were at their command, they accomplished expeditions as hazardous and extraordinary as any of their successors have undertaken to the present day.

ESTABLISHMENT OF THE DANISH COLONY.

It will be seen, by reference to the map, that in making the voyage from Iceland to Greenland the direction in which Gunbiorn must have been driven by the gale was toward the southward. We are apt to have a wrong impression in respect to the relative situation of these coasts, on account of their coming in different hemispheres in the maps which we are accustomed to see. To remedy this the map here given has been constructed on a plan to represent this region of the earth's surface more as it appears upon the globe, and it shows very clearly that in going toward the southern part of Greenland an Iceland navigator was advancing to the southward, and of course to warmer regions, while yet, at the same time, he was going further away from the European shores, from which he and his ancestors had originally come.

Gunbiorn carried back a favorable report of the

land that he had discovered, though it was not favorable enough to induce any of his fellow-countrymen to attempt to visit it for many years. But at length, in 983, a certain chief named Eric Raude, having killed another chief in a quarrel, was compelled to fly from the country by sea, and he went to Greenland. After being absent for some time he returned, and brought back very glowing accounts of the beauty and fertility of the land. Indeed, the name Greenland, which it now received for the first time, was given to it by Eric in token of its extraordinary verdure. His accounts were greatly exaggerated, no doubt, although as they were, of course, intended to describe the condition and character of the country in comparison with those of Iceland, which lay so much to the northward of it, his descriptions were probably not so extravagant as they might seem.

In consequence of his reports and of the efforts which he made to induce the Danish authorities to act upon them, a large expedition was fitted out with a view of proceeding to Greenland to make a settlement there. The expedition consisted of twenty-five vessels. These vessels contained a large number of settlers for the new colony, both men and women, and also cattle, and supplies of seeds and utensils of all sorts necessary for such a community.

About one half of these vessels reached their destination. The rest were scattered by storms, or wrecked among the fields of ice and lost.

Those that landed established friendly relations with the natives whom they found already there, and formed two settlements, which continued to thrive for some time. Numbers came to join these settlements from Iceland, and also from the Orkney Islands, and from the coast of Norway. When we reflect upon the discomfort and the danger which must have attended such voyages as these, made in small and frail vessels, and directed across the most stormy and ice-infested seas, and with no guidance for the navigator but the sun and stars—for the mariner's compass was not known for some centuries after this time—and consider, moreover, the dreadful hardships which the colonists must inevitably have suffered in founding settlements in so wintry and inhospitable a land, we can not but be amazed at the courage and fortitude which they displayed. It would seem that the dauntless energy evinced by our forefathers in the settlements which they made on the Atlantic coast, five or six centuries later, is more renowned only because they have left a more numerous progeny to talk about and applaud them.

References

The first disaster befell the colony in Greenland. It had been many years established. The natives became involved in wars with the Eskimoes, and they suffered a great deal from the war. In the second place, a great pestilence called the black death, which broke out in 1347 with great fury in all the northern portion of Europe about this time, extended at last to Iceland, and thence to Greenland, and carried off great numbers of the people. Finally, as if to complete and seal the ruin of the colony, a series of severe winters set in, in consequence of which the ice accumulated to such an extent in the neighboring seas that all access to the coasts of Greenland was cut off, and the poor imprisoned exiles were left to struggle as they could, alone, with the terrible elements of destruction which were reigning so gloomily around them.

When, at length, after the lapse of many years, the ice so far released its hold as to allow a Danish ship once more to approach the land, very few traces of the old colony were to be found.

VOYAGE OF LIEF AND BIORN.

Very soon after the establishment of the colony in Greenland, and before the calamities above men-

tioned came to blast the hopes of the settlers, two of them, named Lief and Biorn, made a voyage to the southward, and explored a considerable portion of the American coast. Lief was the son of the principal founder of the colony, and he was induced to make this voyage from the report of an Icelfander, who, on attempting to come to Greenland in a vessel, was blown off in a storm far to the southward. He succeeded finally in working his way back again, and on arriving in Greenland he reported that he had seen a country to the southward that was well covered with wood. Accordingly the governor's son determined to make a voyage in that direction, to see what he could find.

It was early in the summer when the vessel sailed, and the party did not return until the next season. The account which they gave of their adventures was this :

They went to the southward for some distance, and at length came to a large rocky island. They named this island Helluland. After this they came to a low country well covered with wood, which they named Markland. They still went on, and at length, some days later, they discovered a larger and far more attractive country than any they had yet seen. There was a river and trees

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indeed was first growing in the house of it. They had found some vines growing in the woods, which seemed different from any they had ever seen in North America. The natives told them that these were the same as those which bore grapes in their country, from which wine was made.

This last circumstance interested the party of Europeans very much, for the Icelanders never before had seen grapes before. They accordingly named this country *Vinland*.

They found natives in this country, but they were of very small stature, like the Esquimaux, who are so short that the Icelanders had given them a name which in their country signified dwarfs. They called these natives dwarfs too. They found them in possession of furs and skins, which they were ready to sell for such articles as the voyagers had on board their ship. The voyagers being much pleased with the country, and finding too, perhaps, that the season was too far spent to make it safe for them to attempt to make their way back through the ice to Greenland, landed and spent the winter there, and then in the following summer returned.

DIFFERENT OPINIONS IN RESPECT TO THESE DISCOVERIES.

These voyagers had no means of making obser-

vations for latitude and longitude, so as to ascertain precisely how far south it was that they had found the fertile land. They, however, reported that the time during which the sun remained above the horizon, in the shortest day in winter, was nine hours.

In all the northern regions through which these Arctic wanderers had been accustomed to roam, the time during which the sun remains above the horizon, in the shortest day of winter, was the mark and measure of the latitude and climate of every country, and indeed almost of its whole condition in respect to fitness for the habitation of man.

It is now known that the latitude which gives nine hours for the shortest day in winter is that of Rhode Island; and consequently, if the report of these voyagers is true, it must have been somewhere in the region of Narraganset bay that their Vineland was situated. It is not at all improbable, however, that they exaggerated somewhat the length of their shortest day, and if so, their position would have been further north. Some persons have supposed, indeed, that the whole story is a fiction, or that at most it is an exaggerated account of some small expedition to the western or southwestern shores of Baffin's Bay, and that

Columbus was really the first person of direct European extraction that set his foot upon the shores of the American continent. But the opinion of those best qualified to judge is, that this voyage of the Northmen was really made, and that notwithstanding the renown to which Columbus is justly entitled for his subsequent discoveries, the Atlantic coast of America was really visited by European adventurers many centuries before his day.

THE RUNIC INSCRIPTION.

A great deal of interest was excited in 1824 by the discovery of a singular stone, far up the coast of Greenland containing an inscription in *Runic* characters. This name Runic was applied to an alphabet of sixteen letters, of very singular forms, which were in use in ancient times among all the Scandinavian nations—that is, the people of Sweden and Norway, and of other neighboring countries. The character was used sometimes for public inscriptions, but it was more generally employed by priests and conjurers, for charms and spells, and mystical and magical devices of all sorts. Words of strange and hidden meaning were written in it, within figures of various forms, such as circles, triangles, squares, and the like, and there were different ways of writing, according as

the spell was intended to take effect in securing health to its possessor, or good luck in his business, or safety at sea, or victory over his enemies, or to bewitch and destroy the objects of his hate.

The Runic writing is very ancient, and the use of it was entirely discontinued in the fifteenth century—it having then been everywhere prohibited by law. Many inscriptions, however, in this character still remain in Norway, Iceland, and Sweden. They are made usually upon rude tablets of stone, set up over a cairn, or upon some huge rock or face of a precipice by the wayside.

The Runic inscription found in Greenland was discovered in 1824. The place where it was found was far to the north of the supposed situation of the early Norwegian colonies, and not many miles from the present Danish settlement of Upernavick, in latitude 73°.

The stone was taken to Copenhagen and deciphered there by the antiquarians and scholars. The inscription was found to be as follows :

“Erling, son of Sigvat and Enride Oddsoen, cleared this place and raised this cairn, on Friday after Rogation day, in”*

* Rogation is a festival of the church which occurs early in the season, usually in May. It commemorates the Ascension of our Saviour.

The date was indistinct. It was thought, however, that the stone must have been erected not far from the year 1100.

This stone, showing how far up the shores of Baffin's Bay the Northmen had extended their settlements at this very early age, is now preserved as a great curiosity in the royal museum in Copenhagen.

CHAPTER II.

C O L U M B U S .

ADVENTUROUS SPIRIT OF THE FIFTEENTH CENTURY.

AT the beginning of the fifteenth century only about one-half the globe was known at all to the civilized nations of Europe. There then arose a great desire to explore and discover the remainder.

The nation which took the lead in this spirit of adventure and discovery was Portugal. The government of Portugal had been engaged during the preceding century in several wars with the Moors, in the course of which they had fitted out a number of naval expeditions to the coast of Africa. In prosecuting these wars the Portuguese made great improvements in the art of building ships and of navigating them. The situation of their own country, too—with numerous safe and excellent harbors along the coast opening out directly upon the broad Atlantic—was very favorable.

Previous to the time above mentioned the navigation of the world had been almost wholly confined to the Mediterranean sea, and the great cities

that were situated on the shores of that sea, such as Genoa, Naples, Venice, and others, conducted nearly all the commerce that then existed. The merchants sent their goods by ships to every part of the Mediterranean, and from the eastern shores of that sea they sent them by caravans to Persia, and finally to India.

DESIRE FOR A PASSAGE TO INDIA BY SEA.

The way to India overland, by caravans, was extremely long and tedious, and yet the trade was so profitable, and the accounts brought back by the merchants and travelers, in respect to the inexhaustible wealth of the country, were so exciting, that the European governments, especially those that ruled over kingdoms situated near the western confines of the continent, began to be extremely desirous of finding some way of reaching it by sea. A single good-sized ship, even such as were built in those days, would convey as many goods as a train of a *thousand* camels could carry, and would advance, moreover, at twice or three times the camel's rate of speed. There was also an enormous difference in the expense of land and sea transportation. Twenty or thirty men, who could take all their provisions with them, would be sufficient for conducting the ship; while a caravan of

camels, sufficient to convey by land the cargo of goods which the ship would contain, would require quite an army of drivers, packers, guides, soldiers for escort, and the like; and the provision necessary for the sustenance of this great troop would necessarily have to be purchased mainly along the line of the route, and often at very high prices.

It is not at all surprising, therefore, that the merchants in the western part of Europe became at length extremely desirous of finding a passage to India by sea.

TWO ROUTES TO BE TRIED.


There were two routes by which an attempt might be made to reach India by sea. One was by following the coast of Africa, with a view of sailing entirely round the southern extremity of it, and then turning to the eastward and so proceeding to India. This way was at length discovered, and it is now the great route pursued by the East India-men of all the countries in Europe. These ships supply the whole western world with teas, silks, spices, and other East India productions, while they carry thither, in exchange, the merchandise and manufactures of Europe, transporting cargoes which all the camels in the world could never succeed in carrying overland across the plains.

Well known, however, as this great thoroughfare is at the present time, there was only a conjecture that it might exist in those early days ; for the ships of the Europeans had only proceeded a very short distance down the African coast, to a certain cape called Cape Non, and nobody knew at all what was beyond this boundary.

The other route by which it was thought that a passage to India by sea might possibly be found will be mentioned further on.

PRINCE HENRY OF PORTUGAL.

Among the personages who took the greatest interest in the voyages of exploration and discovery made in those days was Prince Henry, the fourth son of John I, King of Portugal. By reference to the chart at the commencement of the next chapter it will be seen that Cape St. Vincent is the southwestern extremity of Portugal. It is a lofty promontory overlooking the sea. Near it is the small seaport of Sagres. Prince Henry made some voyages to Africa in connection with his father's expeditions to that country, and he became so much interested in navigation and in the sea that he left the court at Lisbon and took up his residence near the port of Sagres, on the high land, whence he could look off at all times over the



ocean which he so much loved, and where, too, in the little port below he could fit out his ships and plan and arrange his nautical enterprises. In the end he devoted his life to organizing and sending forth expeditions of discovery. Most of these expeditions were sent down the coast of Africa with a view of reaching the southernmost extremity of the continent, and there finding an open way through the sea to India.

The mariner's compass was not yet known, and so the ships, in making these voyages, were compelled to keep near the shore, and to advance in a very slow and cautious manner. Sometimes, however, the winds and the waves helped them to a sudden and rapid stride in their progress of discovery, though perhaps much against their will. The very first ship, for instance, that Prince Henry sent out, was driven off from the coast by a squall, and after scudding over the waves for three or four hundred miles the mariners came in sight of an island, where they obtained refuge from the gale. They named the island Porto Santo, and then returned home to report what they had discovered.

A colony was sent out to take possession of this island, and while they were making their settlement they saw far to the southward of them a small spot in the horizon. It was the summit of

another island. They sailed to it and found the island of Madeira, which was a very much greater prize than the one which they had first discovered.

These successes, when they were reported to Prince Henry, encouraged him very much, and in fact awakened a great enthusiasm throughout the whole of western Europe. Nothing was talked of or thought of but voyages for exploring unknown seas. Adventurous nobles and grandees began to form schemes for becoming governors of islands which they were to discover. Merchants formed companies, and sea captains studied maps and charts, and advanced innumerable theories and conjectures in respect to the conformation of the land and sea, and the direction in which new territories might be expected to be found.

DISCOVERY OF THE PASSAGE ROUND THE CAPE OF GOOD HOPE.

This state of things continued for a long period, during which every successive voyage was extended further and further south, and yet so slow was the progress made that it was more than fifty years before the Portuguese navigators reached the Cape of Good Hope. As they went on making voyage after voyage, each one extending a little further to the southward than the preceding, they were con-

lumbus her husband's maps, charts, and journals, all of which she had carefully preserved, and which Columbus now studied with great interest and attention.

SUPPOSED MAGNITUDE OF THE EARTH.

One of the first questions to be determined in respect to the possibility of reaching India by sailing directly round the globe was what the distance would be, and that, of course, would depend upon the magnitude of the earth. Since the days of Columbus the circumference of the earth has been very accurately measured in both directions, but the means of determining the question which he could command were very imperfect and few.

He made his calculation, as indeed all calculations of longitude are made at the present day, by *time*. The sun he knew was twenty-four hours in passing round the world. So he imagined the equator to be divided into twenty-four parts, one for each hour. He calculated that from the furthest known portion of Asia to the longitude of the Cape Verd Islands, which was the furthest point to the westward that the European navigation had yet attained, there were comprised sixteen of these hours, leaving only eight to be explored.

Now, the distance from the Cape Verd Islands to the furthest portion of Asia then known to Europeans was about eight thousand miles, and if this distance had really represented sixteen out of the twenty-four hours of time comprised in the circuit of the earth, then the remaining space, which would have represented eight hours, would have made only four thousand miles. Columbus supposed that even this distance would be very much diminished by the extension of Asia to the eastward much further than the point which European travelers had yet reached. So that he thought by sailing west from Europe he should reach the land long before he should have passed over the whole interval. He *might* come to it after sailing *three*, or even *two*, thousand miles.

But the truth was, the earth was very much larger than he supposed it to be. So that instead of reaching India by a voyage of two thousand miles, the distance, by the way that he proposed to go, was nearer *sixteen* thousand.

Then, moreover, it was impossible to reach India by such a route at all, for the continent of America lay directly in the way. And so it happened in the end that, on making his voyage, after he had proceeded about as far as he expected to go before coming to India, he was stopped by the

American shores, while he was still *ten thousand* miles from his intended destination.

DIFFICULTIES ENCOUNTERED BY COLUMBUS.

Columbus met with a great many difficulties and discouragements before he could obtain the means of carrying his plans into effect. Very few private individuals were wealthy and powerful enough to furnish vessels and men for such an undertaking, and the governments to whom he applied were very slow in coming to a decision; and in repeated instances, when they did decide, their answer was unfavorable. It is said that the king of Portugal was strongly inclined to favor his views, but the great geographers and learned men of his court, to whom the project was referred for examination, pronounced against it so decidedly that the king had not courage to proceed.

Other governments, after long delays, decided, one after another, against the plan. At last, Queen Isabella of Spain, who reigned in conjunction with her husband Ferdinand, was induced to look favorably upon the undertaking, but a long delay took place, and many difficulties intervened, before an arrangement was finally made.

Some of these difficulties arose from the very grandeur of the views which Columbus entertained

these conditions, though quiet and calm in his manner of doing so, and at length the grandees yielded.

TERMS OF THE COVENANT.

Ferdinand and Isabella made a solemn covenant or treaty with Columbus, which was signed and sealed in due form. This covenant stipulated—

1. That Columbus was by the act constituted Lord High Admiral, with full maritime jurisdiction over all the bays, gulfs, coasts, and shores that he should explore.

2. That he was constituted viceroy for the king and queen over all the lands and continents that he should discover; and this dignity was to be hereditary in his family. All separate and subordinate governors of particular provinces were to be appointed by the king and queen from a limited number of candidates that Columbus was to name.

3. Columbus was made supreme judge, in respect to all matters pertaining to commerce and commercial transactions of all kinds, in the new countries.

4. He was to receive for himself and his heirs, forever, one-tenth of all the clear profits which should be derived from the productions and commerce of the new lands, in consideration of his being the discoverer of them.

5. He was entitled to furnish, if he chose, one-eighth part of the outfit for the expedition, either by himself or by the contributions of his friends, and in consideration of this he was to receive one-eighth part of the profit.

The powers and prerogatives thus conferred upon him were very high. They were all contingent, it is true, on the future discovery of seas and lands upon which they were to take effect; but Columbus was so confident that he should find and explore many rich and extended territories, that he felt, when the treaty was signed, as if he were already raised to the rank of a prince.

In respect to the natives of the countries that were to be discovered, these arrangements were all made without regard to them. They were heathen, and their rights were accordingly not taken into the account at all. The pope, as supreme head of the church, had given the Christian kings of Spain and Portugal full authority to take absolute possession of any countries which they might discover, and to establish their own government over the inhabitants, with a view of bringing them all at once within the pale of Christianity. No one seems to have entertained any idea that the natives themselves could have any rights which were entitled to the least respect or consideration.

PREPARATIONS FOR THE VOYAGE.

The point from which the expedition was to sail, and where, of course, all the preparations were to be made, was a small town in the southern part of Spain, called Huelva, whose port is Palos.

Both Huelva and Palos are situated on the shores of a bay which forms the harbor of Palos.* There are many small islands in this bay. One of these islands named Saltes was the particular rendezvous of the expedition. The government furnished two vessels and ninety men. These vessels were very small, and, incredible as it may seem, had no decks except at the bows and stern. Thus they might almost be considered as open boats, only that they were of the size of small vessels.

Columbus had some friends who resided near Palos, especially the family of Pinzon, which consisted of three brothers, all men of considerable wealth, and accustomed to the sea. These friends combined with Columbus in defraying the expense of furnishing his eighth part of the outfit, on condition that they were to receive a portion of the profits of the enterprise, and it was arranged

* See chart at the commencement of the next chapter.

moreover that two of the brothers Pinzon were to join the expedition as commanders of the vessels furnished by the king. The funds which they contributed were expended in buying a third vessel, larger than either of the other two, and in fitting it up for the voyage in the most complete manner.

This vessel Columbus named the Holy Mary, or, as it was expressed in the Spanish language, the Sancta Maria. The two which were furnished by the government were named the Pinta and the Niña.

The Holy Mary was to bear the admiral's flag, and to be commanded by Columbus himself. Of the next vessel, the Pinta, Martin Pinzon was captain, and his brother Francis pilot. Vincent Pinzon, the other brother, commanded the third vessel.

The banner borne upon the admiral's vessel had for its device two crowns, with the initials of Ferdinand and Isabella over them, and a large cross between them.

The vessels were all furnished with provisions and water for twelve months. The number of men provided by the government to navigate the vessels was ninety. In addition to these quite a number of other persons

joined the expedition,

making the whole number about one hundred and twenty. They all felt a certain personal interest in the adventure, for Queen Isabella had offered a large reward to the one who should first discover land, after the vessels had gone beyond the range of all former voyagers, and this prize was open to the competition of the whole company. Still many of the seamen had been compelled to join the expedition against their will.

INSTRUMENTS OF NAVIGATION.

At the present day navigators have the means of finding their place upon the ocean, both in latitude and longitude, very exactly. They take with them the time of the port which they leave, by means of very precise chronometers, and then having nice instruments for ascertaining the time where they are, they can determine how *many hours of the sun's motion* they are from port, and this gives them the longitude.

They have also very exact instruments for ascertaining the sun's altitude at noon, or the altitude of the north star, or of any other known star, when it crosses the meridian, and this gives them the latitude.

The only instrument which Columbus was provided with for measuring altitudes was one called

an astrolabe. It consisted of a circle with a graduated rim, and sights, by means of which he could ascertain, within a few degrees probably, the altitude of the north star. This would give him, approximately, his latitude; for to a person on the equator the north star appears in the horizon, and as the observer moves to the northward over the earth's surface the star rises, until at length, at the pole, could he go so far, the north star would be directly over his head.

Thus the altitude of the north star corresponds approximately with the distance of the observer from the equator toward the pole.

Accordingly, by watching the north star and measuring the altitude of it every night with his astrolabe, a navigator in those days would be able to keep his ship, in advancing toward the west, pretty nearly upon the same parallel of latitude, or to draw to the south, toward the equator, or recede from the equator toward the pole, at his pleasure.

Columbus had the mariner's compass also, and it might at first be supposed that it would be in his power to regulate the course of his ship, in respect to latitude, by this instrument alone. And this would be practicable were it not for the numerous and powerful currents always flowing in the sea, by means of which a vessel, while steadily

headed toward the west, or toward the east, might be carried imperceptibly far to the northward or to the southward in the course of several days' sail, and this makes it necessary for every ship occasionally to verify the latitude by an observation.

As to longitude, Columbus had probably no means of ascertaining it at all, except by keeping a reckoning, as well as he could, of the distances which he sailed on each successive day. This, however, was a matter of no very serious moment, as his object was to sail due west until he came to land. So long as he had the means of getting his latitude right, he could keep nearly on the same parallel, and of course, in respect to longitude, there was nothing to be done but to go continually on.

And then, too, in returning, as he knew in what latitude Palos was, all that he had to do was to keep upon that parallel, and sail east till he came to it. He would be sure to come to it sooner or later, though not knowing his longitude precisely, he could not know precisely when to expect the land to come in sight.

Besides his instruments, Columbus had on board sundry charts containing delineations of supposed and imaginary islands and tracts of land, laid down according to the fancies or the theories of

different geographers and learned navigators who had speculated on the subject.

PUBLIC OPINION IN RESPECT TO THE EXPEDITION.

The work of getting the little squadron ready, and of making the other various preparations for the voyage that were necessary, consumed a large portion of the summer, so that the month of August arrived before the expedition was ready to sail. During all this time public attention was strongly turned toward the projected enterprise, and great was the difference of opinion entertained in respect to the feasibility of it. Some hoped for the best, and at any rate expressed good wishes. Some mocked and ridiculed the whole undertaking. The prevailing opinion was, however, that the adventurers were going forth on a desperate enterprise, from which it was very doubtful whether any of them would ever return.

THE DAY OF SAILING.

At length the day of sailing, which was the third of August, arrived. The day was Friday, and it would seem that Americans at least should for ever dismiss all superstitious ideas in respect to lucky and unlucky days, in consideration of the

fact that it was on a Friday that the expedition sailed, on the success of which the knowledge of the existence of the new world and everything connected with the whole course of its subsequent history depended. It was moreover on Friday that the expedition first came in sight of land.

The ships were to set sail early in the morning. On the day previous a grand religious service was held, in recognition of the dependence of those about to depart upon the blessing of Almighty God for all hope of success in their dangerous enterprise. Columbus, together with the whole company under his command, walked in solemn procession through the streets of the town to a certain monastery, where, in the chapel, mass was celebrated, and then all attached to the expedition confessed their sins, received absolution, and joined with the priests in offering up prayers to God that he would protect and bless them on their voyage, and bring them home again in safety.

The next morning at sunrise the squadron sailed. A large concourse of people assembled to witness the departure. The spectators lined the shores as the vessels moved away, some cheering them with loud acclamations, and others, especially the mothers and wives of those on board, engaged, with earnest gesticulations and many tears, in put-

ting up fervent prayers to the Holy Virgin to take them all under her blessed protection.

Columbus kept a regular daily journal during his voyage, a copy of which, drawn up in full, was prepared to be presented to the king and queen on his return. In the following chapter we present an abstract of this journal, made from the original document, in order to convey to the reader a more vivid idea than could otherwise be given of the incidents that occurred during the voyage, and of the aspect which the new and unknown scenes into which the party were ushered as they advanced on their way, presented to their view.

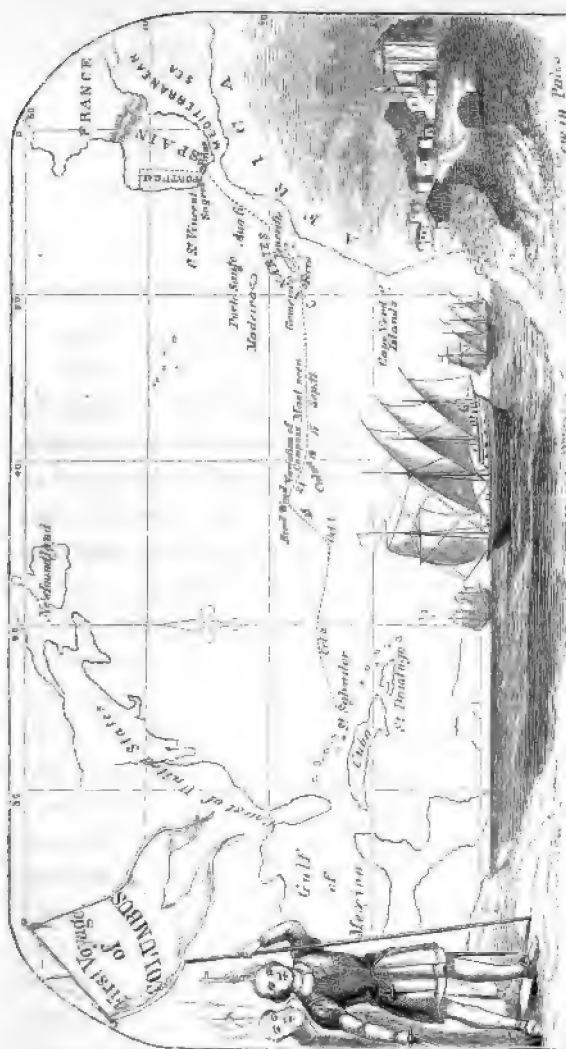
CHAPTER III.

JOURNAL OF THE FIRST VOYAGE OF COLUMBUS.

THE RUN TO THE CANARY ISLANDS.

AUGUST 3, 1492. The squadron crossed the bar at the island of Saltes half an hour before sunrise. By sunset of the same day it had gained an offing of about sixty miles. The ships were then headed to the southwest, toward the Canary Islands, distant about six hundred miles.

AUGUST 6. The rudder of the *Pinta* became unshipped or damaged in some way so as in a great measure to disable the vessel. It was suspected that two of the sailors had produced the mischief intentionally, at the instigation of the owner of the vessel, in order to interrupt the voyage, and some angry criminations took place between the officers and the men. Columbus was uneasy because the state of the weather prevented his going on board the *Pinta* to give directions in respect to repairing the damage. He, however, felt great confidence in the nautical skill of Martin Pinzon, who commanded the damaged vessel, which



confidence it seems was well deserved, for Pinzon succeeded in refitting the rudder, so that the vessel could proceed.

August 7. The rudder of the Pinta gave way again, which occasioned a renewal of the difficulty that had occurred the day before.

August 8. It was time now, according to the reckoning, for the squadron to be drawing toward the islands, and a consultation was held among the commanders and pilots in respect to the precise direction in which it would be best to steer in order to find them. All gave their opinions, each judging as well as he could from the distance which they had come and the course on which they had sailed; and also from the floating of sea-weed, the flight of birds, and other such signs as navigators were accustomed to rely upon in those days for finding the land, in the absence of any precise knowledge from observations.

It proved in this case that Columbus' judgment was most correct. The vessels were steered in accordance with it, and soon the lofty peak of Teneriffe came into view.

The island of Teneriffe is one of the largest, and by far the most lofty, of the Canaries, and, therefore, it is always the first one that is seen. But the best harbor was at the smaller island of Gom-

era, a little further on. Columbus, accordingly, determined to proceed to Gomera, but the *Pinta* was compelled to come to, and cast anchor under the shores of Teneriffe, on account of the rudder being so much out of order. The vessel leaked, too, it was found, and Columbus determined to exchange her for another, if he could find one at the Canary Islands.

A MONTH AT THE CANARIES.

The expedition was detained a month at the Canaries before they were ready to put to sea again. As soon as the other two vessels were safe in port Columbus went immediately to Teneriffe to see about the *Pinta*, having found by inquiry that he could not obtain another vessel to take her place. It was found, moreover, that she could not proceed to Gomera, but must be repaired where she was. So they looked out for a sheltered place on the shores of Teneriffe, and there, careening her so as to get access to the damaged parts, they succeeded, after expending a great deal of pains and labor, in repairing her.

While the expedition was thus detained Columbus availed himself of every opportunity to inquire of the residents upon the island, and of the various seafaring men whom he met there, in regard to

any indications of land to the westward which they had observed or heard of. They all had stories to tell of rumors in respect to land having been seen in that direction. Columbus listened to these accounts with great interest, but they all proved in the end to be fabulous.

These rumors in respect to land, false as they were proved to be in the end, were encouraging in their influence at the time, but there were others which were somewhat alarming. A small vessel came from the island of Ferro, which lies a little to the southwestward of Gomera, and is the most westerly island of the group, with a report that a squadron of Portuguese vessels was lying in wait near that island in order to intercept Columbus and prevent the prosecution of the voyage. The motive was, it was said, a jealousy on the part of the Portuguese government lest the Spaniards should outstrip and supersede them in the work of discovering new countries to the westward. Columbus paid no attention to these rumors, and he saw nothing of any such squadron. The whole story may have been an invention of his sailors, many of whom were unwilling to proceed on the voyage, and seem to have resorted to all possible contrivances to thwart and prevent it.

While the expedition remained at Gomera they

saw some grand volcanic eruptions from the mountains of Teneriffe.

September 6. The expedition sailed from Gomera, or rather attempted to sail, on the morning of this day, but the air was perfectly calm and the sea like glass, so that they made no progress. They were drifted about this way and that by the currents all that day and all the night following, so that on the morning of the next day they found themselves between Gomera and Teneriffe. Thus they had gone back rather than forward.

September 7. The calm continued and the vessels made very little progress. They still remained in the immediate vicinity of the Canary Islands.

THE VOYAGE COMMENCED IN EARNEST AT LAST.

September 8. At three o'clock in the morning a fresh breeze sprung up from the northward, and immediately all sails were set, and the ships began to move swiftly through the water. In coming from Portugal to the present position of the ships the expedition had been navigating seas which the sailors were already familiar with, the voyage to and from the Canaries being very common in those days. The course which they had pursued, as will appear from the chart, lay nearly parallel to the coast of Africa, and not very far from it. But

now they were to strike out in an entirely new direction, steering due west, into seas wholly unknown, and it was consequently not until this time that their real voyage was begun.

September 9. The wind was fresh and fair and the ships went on at great speed. The sailors, finding how rapidly the gale was bearing them away into wholly unknown regions, manifested some discontent, and Columbus, in order to diminish as much as possible any tendency to alarm which they might feel, began to adopt the plan of reporting on the log of the vessel a considerably smaller number of leagues each day than was actually run. He continued this system all the voyage. He kept a private account for himself, in which he entered the true numbers, but he showed to his men another account, in which the distance run each day was reduced, as much as he thought it would bear to be reduced without exciting suspicion. For twenty leagues he counted only sixteen, and for other numbers in proportion. Even his pilots were deceived by these false returns.

He probably thought that this was all right, the deception being practiced for a good motive, and being in some respects of the nature of a stratagem of war. But among all high-minded and honorable men at the present day such a falsification of

his own official documents by the commander of an expedition, made for the purpose of aiding him in the discipline of his crew, would be considered wholly inexcusable. It was certainly inconsistent with the exalted sentiments of moral duty, and, still more, with the high Christian principles, which Columbus professed to entertain. If the subordinate members of an expedition cannot rely upon the honesty of documentary statements made to them formally by their commander in his official character, in what case can they confide in him where he has any interest to deceive them?

September 11 The crews of the ships, of course, kept a close and constant lookout, not only in the direction of the western horizon, for land, but also in every direction over the surface of the sea, for any birds, marine animals, sea-weed, or floating objects of any kind which might come into view. They saw several objects of this kind on different occasions, but on this day they were all greatly excited by the appearance of a large portion of a top-mast, which they saw floating in the water. They were going at such a rate of speed, and the sea was so high, that they could not get the mast, and they were obliged to content themselves with watching it with the eye as long as it continued in sight. It was probably the mast of

some vessel which had been wrecked in the European seas, and had been brought out to this distance from the land by the currents.

VARIATION OF THE NEEDLE

Sept. 13. Of course the vessels were steered by the compass, and whenever the sky was overcast there was no other guide. The position of the sun, however, even without the compass, would have helped the navigator very much in determining his course, and in the night the north star furnished a means of guidance which could be still more easily followed. And as it was, every night when the stars were to be seen, they furnished the means of verifying the indications of the compass, so long as they were true. Thus far, whenever these comparisons between the direction of the needle and the position of the star had been made by night, no deviation had been observed, but now Columbus found, to his great uneasiness, that instead of pointing toward the north star, the needle declined from it very sensibly toward the northwest.

The pilots and the sailors soon observed this phenomenon too, and they were more alarmed by it than Columbus had been. Columbus himself had felt no real concern, for the deviation thus

far observed could be of no serious consequence, since it extended only to a very few degrees; and as he was not steering for any determinate point, but only wished to go in a general direction toward the westward, a change of a few degrees in his course, one way or the other, would be of little consequence. If he should find, after going on for some days, that he was bringing the north star up too high in the evening sky, that would be a proof that he was gradually working to the northward, and then he could turn southward a little more; or if, on the other hand, he found the north star declining, he would know that he was making too much southing, and could, of course, by steering more to the northward for a few days, get back to his parallel. So long, therefore, as the needle varied but little, and was *steady* in its variation, so that the pilots could steer by it through the day, and compare it with the north star occasionally at night, all would go very well.

Sept. 17. The variation still continued. To ascertain precisely how great the deviation was, the pilots took the exact direction of a north and south line by an observation, and marked it carefully, so as to compare the compasses with it. They found the deviation very considerable. Columbus, however, in order to dispel the fears of the officers and

crew, and acting on his idea that he was justified in deceiving them, pretended to be not at all surprised, and told them that in point of fact the needle did not vary at all. It was the north star itself, he said, that moved. The star was only due north in that latitude during a certain portion of the twenty-four hours, and if they were to determine a north and south line by it the next morning at daybreak, they would find that the compass was right. The seamen were satisfied with these explanations, and as the sea was smooth and the winds favorable, and moreover as now every day increasing indications of land appeared, in the floating of sea-weed, the flight of birds, which were now and then seen, and other such signs, the whole company were in excellent spirits, and the crews of the vessels pressed their several embarkations forward, each trying to get in advance of the rest, in order to be the first to discover the land.

There were certain appearances in the clouds near the horizon toward the north, and also toward the south, which the sailors thought denoted land. But Columbus would not turn aside to ascertain the fact. "Those are only islands that lie there," said he. "We shall have time enough to visit them when we come back. All the main indications of land which we see come from the west, where,

if we persevere, and if it please Almighty God, on whom all success and all victories depend, we shall reach the shores of the Indies."

MID-OCEAN.

Sept. 21. The vessels had now arrived in mid-ocean, though of course those on board had no means of knowing how far they might be from shore. They were greatly encouraged to hope that they might be drawing toward the end of their voyage, for they saw many indications, as they thought, of the presence of land. Great quantities of sea-weed were floating in the water. They saw many birds, several of which, of a kind called by the English sailors *boobies*, came on board on different days. A smaller bird too, like a swallow, alighted on the rigging, and the sailors caught it. These were considered proofs that land was near, though in fact they were delusive indications, for the ships were now more than a thousand miles from any land. The sea-weed which they saw came from submerged rocks lying somewhere in those regions, or else was brought from a great distance by the ocean currents. Indeed, it is now known that this part of the Atlantic forms the centre of an immense eddy produced by currents flowing in different directions on the opposite sides

of it, so that great quantities of sea-weed, and portions of wrecks and other floating substances continually collect in it, and present all the appearances of close proximity to land.

The wind gradually declined and the air became calm, and for one or two days the vessels lay lifeless upon it. No land appeared yet in sight, and the sailors, whose spirits fluctuated with every changing feature in the aspect of the scene around them, began to be discontented again, and much alarmed. Nothing is more discouraging and depressing to any company on board a ship at sea than a long-continued calm. An idea began to prevail among the men on board the ships that they were getting into a region of the ocean where the wind never blew at all, and that consequently, if they went on much further, they would never be able to get back. This notion took such strong hold of their minds that the whole crew of Columbus' ship worked themselves into a great state of excitement, and were almost on the verge of mutiny. Their fear, however, that there would never be any more wind was at length dispelled by the rising of a strong breeze, which suddenly sprung up from the west. This was a contrary wind in respect to the progress of the voyage, but it came from precisely the right quarter to quiet the minds

of the sailors, since it blew directly back toward Spain. The wind drove the vessels considerably to the northward out of their course, as will be seen by the chart, but Columbus did not regret this much, on account of the favorable influence which the circumstance exerted on the minds of the sailors.

Sept. 23. Again it fell calm, and the sailors' murmurs returned. They discovered a new source of alarm in the fact that where they then were there appeared to be no swell of the sea, as is usual in the open ocean, even if there is no wind; for ordinarily, even when the air, for the time being, is calm in any given place, the water is agitated with a slow and solemn-moving swell, which is formed by the dying undulations which come from distant storms. There was now none of this ground swell, the sailors observed, and they considered this a proof that there were none but light and baffling winds in the region of the sea to which they had penetrated, and that they were consequently in danger of becoming hopelessly becalmed in it.

But in the midst of their fears it happened that a heavy ground swell arose, as it often does in such cases, and without any wind. This, of course, at once relieved the sailors' fears, and revived their

courage. Columbus said that he was thus saved by the coming in of a heavy swell from the sea, and it was the first time, so far as he knew, that any such case had occurred since the days when the Israelites were saved by the waves which overwhelmed the Egyptians.

FALSE CRY OF LAND.

Sept. 25. This evening, about sunset, as the ships were sailing smoothly and quietly along, suddenly a great shout was heard from the quarter deck of the Pinta, which was, as usual, sailing a little in advance of the others, and on looking in that direction, those on board Columbus' vessel saw that the shouts came from Martin Pinzon himself, the commander of the vessel, who was standing upon the quarter deck, and calling out LAND! LAND! with wild and earnest gesticulations, expressive of the utmost exultation and delight. Columbus called out to him to ask if he was sure that it was land that he saw. He said he *was* sure, pointing at the same time eagerly in the direction where he thought it appeared.

The whole crew of his vessel were gazing intently in the same direction, and a moment afterward they commenced singing a hymn, the GLORIA

IN EXCELSIS of the mass.* The enthusiasm, of course, at once spread to the other vessels; and the crew of Columbus' ship were soon all on deck, and as Columbus thought he could also now see the land, he gave the signal to them, and they sung the GLORIA IN EXCELSIS too.

As the shades of the evening drew on, the appearance of land became indistinct, and at length faded away; but the vessels were all steered in the direction which Pinzon had indicated, every one on board looking out eagerly all the time, and expecting every moment, as the night was not dark, to bring the land again into view. They went on until past midnight, and then slowly and sorrowfully came to the conclusion that they had been deceived, and that there was no land to be found.

PROSPEROUS CONTINUATION OF THE VOYAGE.

Oct. 8. For about ten days after the incident of the false announcement of land, Columbus advanced on his voyage in a very agreeable and prosperous manner. The sea was calm, the sky serene, and gentle breezes, bringing with them a soft and

* Glory to God in the highest. The hymns and prayers of the Catholic church were then, as now, expressed in the Latin tongue.

balmy air, wafted the vessels smoothly and yet pretty rapidly along. Birds were often seen flying to and fro, and sea-weed in great abundance continued to float in the water. The sea, moreover, was so smooth, and the air so spring-like and delicious, that Columbus said that nothing but the song of the nightingale was wanting to make them think that they were sailing on a river in the midst of some enchanted land.

Sometimes, when it was nearly calm, the crews amused themselves with fishing. There was a certain kind of golden-headed fish called the *dorado*, of which they caught several, and some days they saw great numbers of flying-fish skimming through the air all around them. At one time a *booby* came and alighted in the rigging, and a boy who was on board knocked him down with a stone which he threw at him. How he obtained a stone to throw the journal does not inform us. Perhaps the ship was ballasted with *shingle* taken from a beach.

During these ten days the sailors on the whole were pretty well contented, though the pilot of Columbus' vessel, who had kept an account of the false reckonings which Columbus had given him, said one day, with an anxious face and a sigh, after he had been adding them up, that from Ferro, the

last of the Canary Islands toward the west, to the place where they were, the distance which they had run was no less than five hundred and seventy-eight leagues!

The pilot would have had more reason still for the concern which he felt if he had known the true reckoning, for the real distance was over seven hundred leagues. Thus the expedition was more than one hundred leagues further to the westward than the men supposed.

This pilot recommended to Columbus to turn more to the southward, as the indications were strong, he said, of land in that direction. Columbus had hitherto been unwilling to turn aside from his course for any such purpose. He wished to push on as far toward the westward as he possibly could, so as to reach the actual shores of continental India before he was stopped. But now the signs of land became so numerous that he determined to veer to the southward somewhat more than he had done, and accordingly the ship's course, as will be seen by the chart, was now somewhat changed.

THE MUTINY.

October 10. The expedition proceeded on the new course for two days, but no land was to be

seen. Indeed, the signs and tokens of the proximity of land seemed to be diminishing. The sailors began again to be discouraged, and they uttered, both among themselves and in the presence of the officers, a great many murmurings and complaints. At last they said plainly that the voyage had been protracted long enough, and that they would not go any further.

Columbus made an address to them, endeavoring to dispel their fears, and giving them very alluring accounts of the rich reward they would all obtain in the treasures which they would find in the Indies as soon as they reached the land. He added, moreover, in conclusion, that whatever they thought of their situation, they must content themselves as well as they could and make the best of it, for he had set out upon the voyage with the intention of going to the Indies, and he was determined, by the blessing of God, to persevere till he reached his destination.

DISCOVERY OF LAND.

October 11. On this day, which was the very next after the difficulty with the seamen, there suddenly appeared proofs of the proximity of the land far more decisive than any which had yet been observed. The sailors saw several land birds,

and a branch of a tree still green, and also a piece of wood which had been cut with some sort of tool; and, what was more conclusive still, a branch bearing upon it something like berries, which had evidently grown upon the land, and which could not have been long in the water. Of course, all the officers and men on board of the several vessels became greatly excited. Everybody was looking out with the utmost eagerness, all anxious to secure the prize for being the first to see the land.

After sunset Columbus changed the course of the ships more to the westward again, supposing that the land lay to the southward of them, and desiring not to come too suddenly upon it in the night. About ten o'clock, as he was standing upon his lookout on the quarter-deck, surveying the horizon, he thought he saw a light. He called another person to come and look at it, and he, too, thought it was a light. A third person, who was asked to look, could not see it, and presently it disappeared. It afterward came into view again once or twice and seemed to be moving.

The sailors were accustomed to have a religious service on board, after the labors of the day and of the evening were over, in which they sang together the Ave Maria, a chant used in the Catholic worship. After the close of the service on this eve-

ning Columbus announced to them formally that he believed they were now very near the land, and advised them all to keep a careful lookout until morning. He promised to give a silk doublet, in addition to the reward which had been offered by the king and queen of Spain, to the one who should first see the shore. The reward which their majesties had offered was a pension for life, of considerable value.

At length, at about two o'clock in the morning, a cry of land was raised. The land was seen first by a sailor named Rodrigo de Triana. The sails were immediately ordered to be furled, all except one, which was necessary to steady the vessel in lying to, and in this situation they all waited for morning.

As soon as it became light the shore appeared in full view, and groups of savages were seen upon the beach, gazing at the vessels with every mark of wonder and admiration.

CHAPTER IV.

SEQUEL OF THE VOYAGE.

PREPARATIONS FOR LANDING.

As soon as the arrangements could be made Columbus prepared to land. As has already been said, he entertained very lofty ideas of the dignity of his mission, and of the exalted rank which he held as governor of the lands that he had discovered and as Lord High Admiral of the seas, and he deemed it proper that the act of landing should be effected in a ceremonious and formal manner. He accordingly dressed himself in his official costume, which was of a very rich and gorgeous description, and at the same time ordered the barge to be armed and made ready. The barge was brought alongside the several vessels in succession, and Columbus, with the two other commanders, were taken on board. Each bore in his hand a banner. Columbus carried the one which had been borne upon his own ship as the flag of the admiral. All the banners were embroidered with the crowns and initial letters of the king and queen of Spain.

The principal secretaries and other officers of the expedition also embarked in the barge, and a suitable number of seamen, some of whom were armed in order to act as an escort for the party and a guard, while others were to serve as oarsmen. In this manner the landing party left the ship and proceeded toward the shore.

THE CEREMONY OF TAKING POSSESSION.

The whole party, as they drew toward the land, were intently occupied in gazing at the scene which met their view, while the groups of natives, almost naked, that were gathered on the beach watched their coming with a still stronger expression of wonder and curiosity depicted upon their countenances. As soon as the boats reached the beach Columbus was the first to leap to the shore. The others followed him. They found themselves in the midst of an enchanting scene of tropical verdure and beauty. Before them were groves of trees covered with a dense foliage of the very richest green, and fruits and flowers of new and unknown forms were growing luxuriantly around them.

Columbus advanced a short distance upon the land, and then taking his station where he could be seen by all, he summoned the officers and sea-

men who had come on shore with him in the barge to gather around him, and then planting the staff of his banner in the soil, he called upon all present to witness that he took possession of that land in the name of their majesties the king and queen of Spain.

FORMING ACQUAINTANCE WITH THE NATIVES.

The remainder of the day was spent in making various observations and in forming acquaintance with the natives. Columbus said, in an account which he gave of these transactions, that he determined to treat the natives kindly, being convinced that they could be brought over to the Christian faith more easily by kindness than by force. So he distributed among them some gay-colored caps, glass beads, little bells and other such things as he had brought with him for the purpose, all of which seemed to please them very much, and they, in return, gave Columbus and his men parrots and balls of cotton thread, which it seems they had contrived in some way to spin, and javelins, which appeared to be their only weapons of war.

The relations thus established between the natives and their visitors became so friendly that in the course of the day many of the former swam off to the ships and were received on board, where

they expressed, so far as their exclamations and gesticulations could be understood, the utmost astonishment at everything they saw. Of course, there could be no communication except by dumb show, but the natives were very willing to attempt to pronounce such English words as the sailors gave them, and they succeeded so well in their efforts, and showed so much docility in trying to learn, that Columbus was convinced, he said, "that they could all be made Christians with very little difficulty."

They were, however, very poor, and apparently very ignorant and helpless. Columbus saw scars upon the persons of some of the men, and he asked by signs what was the cause of them. They signified in reply that the scars were from wounds given in a fight, and that the enemies with whom they fought came from some other islands near. The only weapons, however, which they had were the javelins above spoken of, which were formed of a simple shaft, pointed with the tooth of some animal. They seemed to have no idea of any cutting tool or weapon whatever, for when Columbus showed them a saber, one of them took hold of it by the blade and cut his hand with it, at which he and all the others seemed inexpressibly surprised.

COLUMBUS NOT SATISFIED.

Although the triumph of Columbus was now in one sense complete, his expectations and promises in regard to the discovery of land having been fully realized, still in one aspect of the scene before him he was far from being satisfied, and that was the appearance of poverty which both the country and the people presented. He had supposed that he was coming to the Indies, to a land rich in gold and gems, and in every other species of wealth that the heart could desire. A great many tales had been told by travelers who had visited India by the route over land through Persia and Arabia, of an island called Cipango, which lay to the east of India, and was said to be full to overflowing with every species of costly and precious treasure. There seems to have been no limits to the credulity of people in those days in respect to the wonderful richness of the east, and this island of Cipango in particular filled all imaginations as a sort of enchanted land where the fabulous narratives of the Arabian Nights, in respect to stores of golden utensils and precious gems laid up in the treasuries of princes, and vast accumulations of the richest merchandise in the markets were to be fully realized. It is now supposed that

Japan was the island actually referred to, under the name of Cipango, in the accounts which the travelers received, so that there was a real territory to serve as a foundation for these tales, although the pictures which they presented to the imagination were all splendid illusions.

Columbus' mind was full of Cipango when he discovered land, and he was somewhat disappointed to find that although the country of which he had taken possession with so much formality was beautiful, the inhabitants seemed to be miserably poor. They were willing to give anything that they possessed for a nail, or a glass bead, but then they seemed to have nothing to give but parrots, cotton balls, and rudely made javelins, barbed with bone.

ASTONISHMENT OF THE NATIVES.

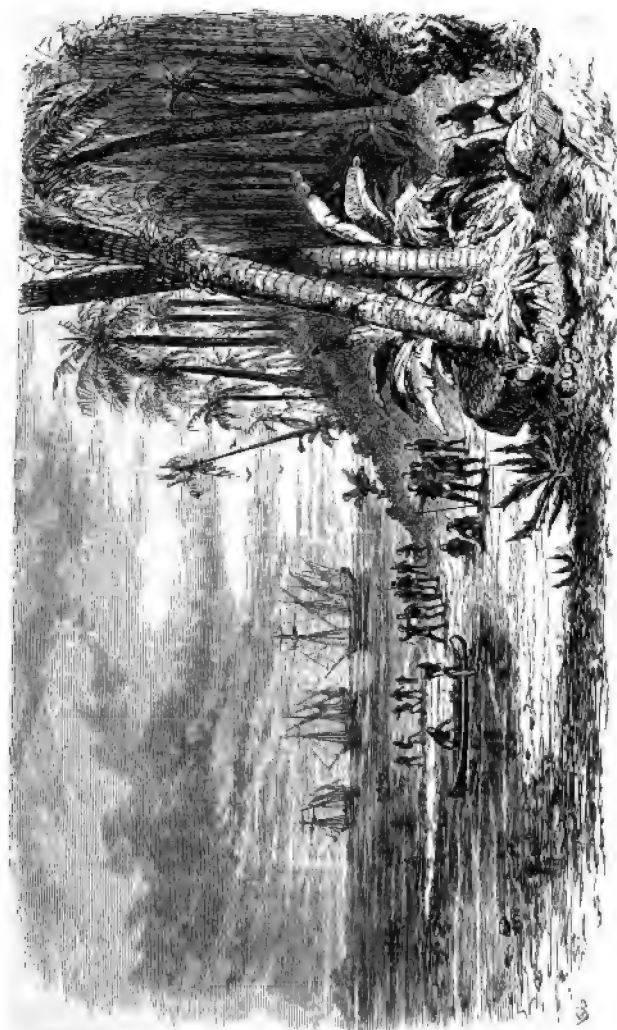
The next day after the landing the number of natives upon the shore in the neighborhood of the vessels greatly increased—the new comers doubtless having been drawn to the spot by rumors of the arrival of the strangers, which had spread into the interior and along the coasts. Some came in boats which were made of logs hollowed out by fire. These boats were of various sizes, some being intended to carry only one man, while others were

large enough to contain forty or fifty. The Spaniards were surprised to see how well made these boats were, and how fast they could be propelled through the water. They were navigated by paddles shaped, as Columbus said in his account of them, "like an oven shovel." The boats were, however, very easily upset, and whenever one of them went over the natives all leaped out into the water, and then righting the boat they bailed out the water with calabashes, which they always carried with them for this purpose, and clambered in again. There were no clothes to be dried after such an accident as this, for the men were all naked.

Those that had no boats found no difficulty in swimming off to the vessels, whenever they wished to go on board.

The vessels all this time were anchored at some distance from the shore of the island, and within the reef. The water, being protected by the reef, was smooth, and so perfectly clear that the bottom could be seen at a great depth.

The swell of the sea was rolling in heavily all the time against the outer face of the reef, but not disturbing the broad expanse of sheltered water within. The air was delightfully serene. The vegetation which adorned the shores was most



THE SQUADRON IN PORT.



luxuriant and beautiful. The natives, some assembled in wondering groups upon the beach, others passing to and fro in their boats, or swimming through the water, gave an aspect of joyous animation to the scene, while the vessels of the little squadron lay sleeping, as it were, upon the smooth expanse of water which on every side lay bordering the green margin of the land, like a silver frame encasing a pictured landscape of indescribable verdure and beauty.

The whole aspect of the scene was enchanting, and if Columbus could have but seen indications of substantial wealth at all corresponding with the charming tokens of natural fertility and beauty which everywhere met his view, all the aspirations of his heart would have been completely satisfied.

Columbus watched for every new company of savages that arrived from the interior, or came in boats from along the shore, and examined carefully everything that they brought, and especially all the ornaments that they wore, to see if he could find any gold. At last he found a small piece of this metal in a certain ornament that one of the savages wore. He made inquiries by signs where that substance came from. The natives answered by signs as well as they could, and after much gesticulation on both sides, and many different at-

tempts to make each other comprehend, Columbus thought that they meant to say that the land which they were then upon was an island, and that there were other islands near, some of which were inhabited by people who had a great deal of gold. They even had utensils made of it. This idea the speakers conveyed by pointing to their calabashes and to the little piece of gold at the same time, and by making signs to represent utensils of different forms. They also gave Columbus to understand that if he went on round their island to the other side, and then sailed south, he would come to one of the islands thus supplied with gold.

CRUISE AMONG THE ISLANDS.

After remaining a day at the place where he had first landed, Columbus set sail for the purpose of cruising along the shore, in order to make new discoveries. He determined to take some of the natives with him, and he accordingly seized a number of those who came on board and detained them. They were very much alarmed, and made every effort to escape, but Columbus kept them closely guarded, though he endeavored to allay their fears by making signs to assure them that he would treat them kindly, and bring them back again before long in peace and safety.

With these men on board his vessels for guides and interpreters, Columbus went on along the coast, and he afterward spent two or three months in cruising in those seas, following the shores of one island after another as they successively came into view, and looking everywhere for gold. His captive guides, by means of signs and gestures, and also before long in some degree by language, for they were very docile in repeating what was said to them, and soon began to learn quite a number of words, directed him which way to sail to find new islands. They gave him to understand that the islands were extremely numerous in those seas, and Columbus counted up more than one hundred, the names of which they knew and gave him.

Whenever, in the course of this cruise, the squadron approached any new coast, the natives came down to the beach full of wonder and astonishment, as they had done at the first island visited; and then when the boat from Columbus' ship came to the shore, at first they would appear very much frightened and would fly in all directions. But they were usually soon induced to return, and friendly relations were easily established with them. When once a good understanding with them was effected, they were ready to barter

anything they had for the most trifling articles offered them by Columbus, but the commodities which they had to sell were very few and of very little value. Columbus looked out everywhere very eagerly for gold. He had some specimens with him, which he showed to the natives on every island, and made signs to them to inquire whether they knew of such a substance, and if so, where it was to be found.

He usually obtained favorable answers to these inquiries, but the place where the gold was to be found was always at a distance. They told him, by signs, of course, that in such or such a direction there was an island where there was a king who wore clothes, and who had a great quantity of gold. The gold was so abundant on that island, they said, that the people had necklaces, and bracelets, and ear-rings, and other ornaments made of it. There was also, they said, an island inhabited by men who had only one eye, and another where the faces of the men were formed into a sort of snout or muzzle, like that of a dog. The stories told about the gold were obviously entitled to very little credit, coming as they did in connection with marvelous and ridiculous tales like these. Still Columbus and his men more than half believed *them*.

SEARCH FOR SPICES.

One of the chief elements in the wealth of the Indies consisted in the spices which grew there, supplies of which had heretofore been brought to western Europe by caravans of merchants traveling overland. In order to facilitate his search for these precious productions in the countries which he should discover, Columbus had taken the precaution to bring specimens with him to show to the natives. Accordingly now, wherever he landed, he took with him small quantities of cinnamon, pepper and other spices, and showed them to the people, making signs to them at the same time to inquire whether they were acquainted with those articles, and, if so, if they knew where they grew. In answer to these inquiries sometimes the Indians seemed to say that they knew nothing about them, and at other times they indicated places where they grew, but in the end all the indications failed, for no spices could be found. In fact, Columbus was at this time almost at a distance of half the circumference of the globe from the countries in which spice-bearing plants had ever grown.

LANDING UPON CUBA.

In the course of his cruise Columbus reached the island of Cuba, and he explored the coast of it

for many leagues. The extent and beauty of the island had been represented to him by the natives of other islands, before he reached it, in such glowing colors, that he had believed from their accounts, so far as he could understand them, that it must be Cipango itself, and he approached its shores with his hopes and expectations exalted to the highest pitch.

He entered a sort of bay where a river, coming down from the interior, emptied into the sea. After his vessels were moored he took his boat and rowed some distance up the stream to view the interior of the country. He was amazed at the exuberant magnificence and beauty of the scene which presented itself to his view. There were forests of lofty trees, which were adorned with the richest and most luxuriant foliage, and banks covered with beautiful flowers, and birds of unknown forms and resplendent plumage flying to and fro, and water so pellucid and clear that the boat, in gliding over the surface of it, seemed to be moving in mid-air. The whole scene presented, as Columbus said, a spectacle the most charming that the human eye had ever reposed upon.

AN EMBASSAGE SENT INTO THE INTERIOR.

At one time, while cruising along the shores of

Cuba, Columbus obtained information which seemed to him so definite in respect to a chief or king who lived at some distance in the interior, that he determined on sending an embassy to his court. He designated two of his ship's company on this service. The name of one was Rodrigo de Jerez, and of the other Louis de Torres. The latter was a Jew, and he was selected for this duty on account of his attainments as a linguist. He was acquainted with the Hebrew and Chaldee languages, and he had some knowledge also of Arabic. Columbus, acting under the illusion that he was upon the eastern shores of India, supposed that these languages might possibly be found of some service in communicating with the natives of the country. Two of the Indians, who had been taken from the first island that he had visited, were to go too. They had at this time been with the expedition for several weeks, and they had learned so many words, and, moreover, had become so accustomed to communicating with the Europeans by signs, that they were likely to be of considerable service as interpreters.

The two ambassadors were provided with small pieces of gold, and also with specimens of spices, to show to the people whom they should see, with a view to inquiries in respect to the existence of such

substances in their country. They were also instructed, in case they should reach the capital and gain access to the king, to represent to him, as well as they could with such interpreters as they had, or by signs, that Columbus, their chief, had come from a great country far beyond the sea, called Spain. That the king of Spain, who was the monarch of a mighty empire, had sent Columbus with a present and a letter for the Indian king, in order to inquire after his health and prosperity, and to make a league of friendship with him.

The ambassadors were also provided with a supply of necklaces, strings of beads, needles, bells and other such things which were to be used, both as presents to conciliate the good will of the people they might visit, and also as a medium of exchange to procure by barter from the natives whatever they might require for their own personal wants. They had permission to extend their absence to six days.

In due time the embassy returned, bringing back a long account of savages, and rude huts, and a village, and javelins tipped with bone, and balls of cotton thread for sale—but no gold, no spices, and no king. Nor had the learned Jew found any occasion to call into requisition his stores of Chaldaic or Arabic lore.

GENERAL TREATMENT OF THE NATIVES.

Columbus treated the natives generally with great kindness wherever he went. Whenever, on approaching a new island, he could secure one of them on board his ship, either by overtaking him in his boat far away from land, or by any other mode, he would take care that he should not be harmed in any way, but would direct the sailors to feast him with such food and drink as they thought would be agreeable to him, and show him all about the ship. He would then present him with a number of gifts and set him free again in his boat, in order that he might go on shore and tell his countrymen that the strangers that were coming were good and kind, and that there was no occasion to be afraid of them. The effect of this policy—for Columbus admitted that he acted thus from considerations of policy alone—was to allay all the fears which the natives of the islands would otherwise have felt, and to make it very easy for the commanders and crews of the vessels to land at once whenever they approached any shore, and to enter immediately into the most friendly relations with the natives.

Columbus, however, did not recognize any title whatever to the lands which they occupied in the natives themselves. Wherever he landed he took

possession of the country in a formal manner in the name of the king and queen of Spain, and he set up crosses, made of planks, at all these stations, and consecrated them with the most solemn ceremonies, as if he were acting under a commission from Jesus Christ, to seek, among these unknown islands of the sea, new regions to be added to his spiritual kingdom. Indeed, there was a strange incongruity in the motives which seemed to actuate him in all this exploring cruise among the islands—an exalted religious enthusiasm, which seemed sometimes quite sublime, mingling with a very eager appetite for worldly wealth and power. Crosses and holy banners in one hour, and in the next Cipango, spices and gold.

KIDNAPPING THE NATIVES.

During the whole progress of this expedition Columbus seemed to have thought himself authorized by a divine commission to set aside all the ordinary rules of justice and humanity whenever occasions arose in which the success of his mission might thereby be promoted. It occurred to him, while he was making this tour, that it would be well to take some of the natives home with him to Spain, in order, first, that he might exhibit them there as proofs and trophies of his success, and

secondly, that they might learn the Spanish language, and so become interpreters for future expeditions. Accordingly, when the time for his return to Europe began to draw near, as he was passing along the shores of St. Domingo he stopped opposite the mouth of a small river, and as usual opened friendly communications with the natives. At length, when their suspicions and fears were entirely allayed, and they began to come freely on board the vessels, he selected a party of young men who came out together in a boat, and when they had been received on board his vessel he enticed them below and made them all prisoners, except one whom he allowed to return to the shore with the boat.

Immediately afterward, thinking, as he said, that it would make the young men feel more contented with their lot in being taken to Europe against their will if they had wives to go with them, he sent on shore upon the other side of the river, where there was a village, and caused seven women and three children to be seized, all of whom were brought on board and held as prisoners, together with the men.

The next day the husband of one of the women came out to the vessel and begged that if his wife could not be released he might be taken too, to go

with her. To this Columbus agreed, and the man was received on board.

It was said that in a day or two all the prisoners seemed tolerably contented with their fate. It is possible that they might have been really so, for it seems they thought that they were going to be taken to heaven. It was the general impression among the natives on all these coasts that the strangers had come down from the skies, and were going to return thither again. They seem to have imagined that the vessels were of the nature of immense aquatic birds that had descended from mysterious regions in the upper air, and alighted upon the water, where, having folded their wings, they were now reposing, and that after moving for a time slowly along the coasts, till they had accomplished the objects of their visit, they would go back as they came, by ascending into the air.

It would seem, however, that the contented spirit which the captives manifested was, after all, only assumed for the purpose of putting their captors off their guard, for a few days after they were taken two of the young men, watching their opportunity, leaped overboard and swam ashore.

Columbus justified his seizing the women, in order to furnish the other prisoners with wives, by an argument which showed how utterly regardless

he was of all the rights of the natives whenever the supposed interests of the expedition, or of his plans of discovery, came in conflict with them. He says that negroes from the Portuguese settlements in Africa had several times been taken in this way and carried to Portugal, where they had learned the language, and then had afterward been taken back to Africa by other expeditions, with a view of being made useful as interpreters. But always in such cases, as soon as the prisoners reached the African shores again, they invariably took the first opportunity to make their escape, and were thenceforth heard of no more; and if, in order to prevent these escapes, the men were kept confined, very little use could be made of them as guides and interpreters.

The idea which Columbus now entertained was, that in the course of the voyage, and during their stay in Portugal, the men whom he had taken would form matrimonial connections, more or less regular, with the female captives, and then when he brought them back to their native islands again he could maintain a strong hold upon them by retaining their wives and children on board the ships while they themselves were engaged on shore in discharge of their duties.

VISIT FROM A CAZIQUE.

At one time, while the ships of Columbus were lying off the shore of St. Domingo, a native chieftain, called a *cazique*, came on board to pay the strangers a visit. He was naked, but he came in great state—being borne on the shoulders of four men, in a sort of palanquin or litter made of poles, and attended by a guard of two hundred retainers. He came off to Columbus' ship in his own boat, and on coming on board he was conducted at once into the cabin, where Columbus, as it happened, was at that time taking his dinner. The men who came with him, excepting two, remained outside, sitting on the deck, before the cabin door. The *cazique*, when he had entered the cabin, was invited to take a seat, and he did so. The two who came in with him—his prime minister and his secretary, as was supposed—sat down at his feet upon the floor, and watched him all the time, as if ready, on the instant, to obey any command that he might give them.

Refreshments were offered the *cazique*, both food and drink. He merely tasted of what was given him, and then sent the dish or the vessel to his men outside, who ate and drank the whole with great eagerness. The *cazique* seemed exceedingly

interested in everything that he saw, and Columbus presented him with many of the articles which particularly attracted his attention. Among them was a curtain which hung before a berth in the cabin, a pair of shoes made of a certain colored stuff, some amber beads, a phial containing orange-flower water, and other such things.

The cazique was extremely delighted at receiving these gifts. He talked and gesticulated a great deal, and seemed very much distressed that Columbus could not understand what he wished to say.

Columbus showed him the effigies of Ferdinand and Isabella on a coin, and made signs denoting that those were the heads of his sovereigns. He also endeavored to communicate to him, by signs, an idea of the great extent and power of the kingdom over which these rulers held sway.

At length, when night began to come on, and the cazique signified that it was time for him to withdraw, he was dismissed with honor, being saluted at his departure by discharges of musketry. He went on shore in his boat, and was there received by his escort and borne away as he came, on his palanquin.

DISASTERS.

Everything went prosperously and well with

the expedition from the first discovery of land, early in October, for more than two months; but at length, toward the latter part of December, Columbus encountered a train of very serious disasters. The first stroke came upon him suddenly, like a thunder-clap out of a clear sky.

It was on Christmas day, the twenty-fifth of December. His vessels had been sailing along the coast for several days, and as usual in such cases he had himself been constantly on deck, making observations upon the land, and at last, about eleven o'clock at night, on the above named day, observing that the way was clear for some distance forward, and that the sea was smooth, he went below, leaving the pilot in charge of the helm.

In about an hour he was awakened by hearing a loud call upon the deck. He rushed up the gangway and found that the vessel was aground. The pilot, it seems, as the commander had gone away and everything was quiet, had concluded to take a little rest himself, and he had put the helm into the hands of a boy, directing him how to steer, and had then lain down and gone to sleep. The boy remained at the helm, but either on account of some current which drifted the vessel out of its course, or else from not understanding his

duty, or perhaps getting sleepy, and thus not properly attending to it, he allowed the vessel to work too near the reef. He was at length aroused from his reveries by feeling the rudder strike upon something below, and immediately afterward he heard the sound of the breakers alongside. He was greatly alarmed and called out for help, and Columbus, who was always on the alert, was the first to answer to the summons. The vessel went upon the rocks so gently that nobody perceived it when she struck.

She was now, however, fixed to the spot, though she rose and fell gently with the swell, as she lay upon the rocks. The first thing to be done in such a case is always to send out an anchor astern, and then by means of the windlass or the capstan endeavor to draw the vessel off from the rocks into deep water again. This Columbus attempted to do. He ordered a boat to be lowered and an anchor to be put into it, and then directed the second officer and a suitable number of men to get on board and row back into deep water, in order to set the anchor there.

Bat the second officer seemed to think that this was a case in which each man was justified in looking out for himself, so instead of going out with the anchor, he turned his boat, as soon as he got

clear of the vessel, and pulled off toward the Niña, which was very near. The Pinta had been separated from the rest of the squadron some time before, and no one knew what had become of her. The Niña, therefore, afforded the only hope of escape for the whole party in case of the Santa Maria becoming disabled.

But the commander of the Niña would not allow the deserters to come on board. He ordered them back to their duty. At the same time he sent his own boat, with a crew of able-bodied men, to the aid of Columbus.

In the meanwhile the tide was falling, and the Santa Maria began to settle over upon her side. The masts were immediately cut away to relieve her, but to no avail. The seams soon began to open and water came in. Columbus was obliged to abandon her for fear that she would go to pieces before morning with all on board. So he took the men off in the boats to the Niña, which was laying-to as near as possible to the wreck, and waited for day.

CONSEQUENCES OF THE LOSS OF THE SANTA MARIA.

Early in the morning Columbus, finding that his vessel was a total wreck, sent messengers to a chieftain who lived on the island not far from the

spot, to inform him of the calamity which had befallen him. The chieftain immediately came down to the beach and repaired on board the Niña, and there expressed to Columbus the utmost possible concern for his misfortune, tendering at the same time every assistance that was in his power. He set apart several large huts on the shore to receive and shelter the men, and he offered to provide boats for removing the cargo of the ship to the land. These promises were fulfilled in the most faithful manner, both on the part of the chief himself and on that of all his subjects. The natives went to work in the most earnest manner to help the strangers in their distress. The goods on board the wreck were mostly saved, and were transferred to the shore, where they were all placed in safety and under shelter; and accommodations, as comfortable as the nature of the case would admit of, were provided for the men until there should be time to decide what to do.

The result was that Columbus came to the conclusion that he could not safely undertake to transport all his men back to Spain in the Niña, which was now the only vessel that remained. So he determined to build a sort of fort upon the land, and leave a part of his company there in charge of the stores saved from the wreck, until he should

have time to proceed to Spain and return with men and supplies sufficient for the establishment of a regular colony.

CONCLUSION OF THE VOYAGE.

Columbus readily obtained the consent of the native chief that he should build a fort upon his territory, and he had no difficulty in inducing a sufficient number of men to consent to remain as the garrison of it. He accordingly marked out the boundaries of a sort of camp, and his men, with the help of the natives, dug a ditch about it and inclosed it with a strong palisade. They also raised a rampart and placed upon it the guns saved from the wreck. Within this fortress he deposited all the stores which he was intending to leave. Huts were built, both to shelter the goods and also to serve as dwellings for the men. Columbus appointed a certain gentleman named Diego de Arado to the command of this little colony during his absence, and soon afterward, taking all the rest of the company with him on board the *Niña*, he set sail for Spain.

Of the incidents and adventures which he met with on his voyage home—of his meeting with the *Pinta* again after a long separation, and thus being able to relieve in some degree the crowded con-

dition of the Niña—of the terrible storm which he encountered when he began to draw near to the European shores—of his retiring to his cabin when all hope of being saved seemed to disappear, and writing there upon parchment a brief account of discoveries, with directions for others to follow in order to reach the shores that he had found, and inclosing the writing first in oil cloth, and then in a cake of wax, and finally in a cask, which, after being carefully closed, was thrown into the sea—of the subsequent subsiding of the storm and happy escape of the vessels from their great danger—of their touching at the Azores, and finally, by stress of weather, being forced to make a port in the mouth of the Tagus—of Columbus' going up thence to Lisbon, and being received very honorably by the king of Portugal—and finally, of his sailing again from the Tagus and arriving safely at Palos, the port from which he had departed about eight months before, and of the universal joy and enthusiasm with which he was received, the ringing of bells, the firing of cannon, and the grand processions with which the great discoverer was conducted through the town—of all these things, as well as of the many other wonderful adventures which befell him in his subsequent voyages, and the extraordinary reverses which he encountered

in the course of his eventful life, we cannot speak particularly here. It is time to leave Columbus and pass on to scenes and incidents more directly connected with the progress of discovery on that portion of the continent which is the special scene of the events to be narrated in these volumes.

CHAPTER V.

DISCOVERY OF NORTH AMERICA.

SEBASTIAN CABOT.

AMONG the earliest and most celebrated of the navigators who followed Columbus in the track which he opened to the world across the Atlantic was Sebastian Cabot, whose name figures quite conspicuously in the history of the time, from the fact that he, in connection with his father, was the first to discover and explore the coasts of North America. Cabot made his voyages, too, under the authority of the king of England, as Columbus had done under that of the king of Spain. And thus, while all the countries lying in the central portion of the continent were taken possession of in the name of Spain, and became subject to the Spanish dominion, Cabot planted the English flag upon the more northern portions of the continent, and from this it resulted that, in process of time, they became the seat of English colonies.

The Anglo-Saxon populations, therefore, that at the present day thrive so prosperously in all the

northern portions of the new world, look back to Cabot as the great precursor and pioneer of the thirty or forty millions, now established on this continent, that speak the English tongue.

THE CABOT FAMILY.

And yet Cabot was not an Englishman—at least he was not of English parentage. His father, like all the other principal navigators of those times, was an Italian. He received his nautical education upon the Mediterranean Sea. Both father and son seem to have been plain and unpretending merchants and navigators, intent on making their voyages, and not concerning themselves much about preserving records of them. It was sufficient for them to enjoy the satisfaction at the time, of roaming about the world in search of adventures and discoveries, and of the means of acquiring wealth. They seem to have thought very little of the interest that posterity would feel in learning the particulars of their exploits. The consequence was that they left no detailed account either of what they did or of what they saw, and the only information now possessed in regard to them comes from various disconnected sources. In fact, it is due rather to fortunate accident than to any other cause that any memorials whatever of

their first voyages have been preserved. It is said, however, that the Cabots did not wholly neglect the duty of preserving a record of their adventures for the instruction of posterity, as Sebastian left behind him at his death a considerable number of charts, journals and other documents, which were intended for publication. But in some way or other this intention failed of being carried into effect. None of these records are now known to exist.

GENERAL INTEREST AWAKENED IN COLUMBUS' DISCOVERIES.

Of course, as soon as Columbus returned from his first voyage and reported his having crossed the ocean and discovered land so far on the way toward India, the news spread rapidly through all the seaports in Western Europe, and all seafaring men occupied themselves with discussing the innumerable questions which at once arose. The various governments, too, of Western Europe were greatly interested in these discoveries, and each of them began to form designs of sending out expeditions to find new lands, and to take possession of them in their own name.

Among the seafaring men whose attention was strongly attracted to this subject was John Cabot, Sebastian's father. He was, as has already been

said, an Italian, but he was at this time residing with his family in Bristol, in England, which was then, as now, a very important seaport. He came to Bristol from Venice, where he had previously lived for fifteen years. This has been shown by certain registers remaining among the public archives at Bristol, which historians had the curiosity to examine long after Cabot's day, when the world began to feel an interest in being informed in respect to his origin.

John Cabot received the news of Columbus' discoveries at Bristol, and he immediately began to study his charts and his globe, and to speculate on the best track to be followed for reaching India. He became convinced that the route which Columbus had pursued—that is, in a direction due west from Europe—was not the best course. It might be supposed by one who has not examined the subject attentively, that if two places lie on nearly the same parallel of latitude, as is the case, for example, substantially, with the eastern coast of Central Asia and Spain, the nearest way to reach one from the other would be to sail exactly east or west. But this is not the fact, as may be demonstrated very easily by means of a globe. The shortest distance from New York to Havre, for instance, as will appear by stretching a thread

upon the globe from one of these points to the other, will pass considerably to the northward of either of them. In the same manner the most direct course from the center of Spain to the middle of the Pacific Ocean in the same latitude—which was about the region where, in those days, the eastern shores of India were expected to be found—lies, not through the region of the West India islands, where Columbus had been seeking it, but through the very heart of Greenland!

By an inspection of the map this does not appear to be so, but by stretching a thread from one point to the other on the globe it will be made very clear.

Persons making a voyage across the Atlantic to Liverpool, when they find, as they sometimes do, from the daily report of the latitude and longitude made by the captain, that they are actually further to the north than the northern extremity of Ireland, are very much surprised; and having no globe at hand to correct the erroneous impressions obtained from maps, can hardly be persuaded that the ship has not gone out of her way. The fact is that the most direct line from New York to Liverpool passes through a part of Newfoundland, and thence continues, crossing the parallels of latitude, till it reaches a point far to the northward of the

port of destination, after which it declines to the southward again as it approaches the port.

John Cabot, Sebastian's father, in reflecting upon these and similar facts, convinced himself that the true way of endeavoring to find a passage to India was to sail much further to the northward than Columbus had done, and he began at once to endeavor to obtain from the English government the means of making an expedition. He succeeded in this, it seems, though nothing is known of the steps that he took, or of the difficulties, if any, which he encountered. He received from Henry the Seventh, who was then king, a formal commission to proceed on the voyage, and to take possession of all the lands that he should discover, in the king's name.

THE LETTERS PATENT.

The letters patent* received by Cabot, the father, were written, as such documents usually were in those days, in Latin. It will be interesting and useful to the reader to see one specimen of the sort of commissions which these ancient navigators received from their respective governments ;

* The word *patent* means *open*. Letters patent are letters open to all the world, that all who see them may govern themselves accordingly.

and we accordingly give this one in full, as found translated into the English of that day, in the old black letter folios in which such annals were recorded in those times :

The Letters Patents of King Henry the Seventh granted vnto Iohn Cabot and his three sonnes, Lewis, Sebastian and Sancius, for the discouerie of new and vnknown lands.

Henry, by the grace of God, king of England and France, and Lord of Ireland, to all to whom these presents shall come, Greeting :

Be it knownen that we haue giuen and granted, and by these presents do giue and grant, for vs and our heires, to our well beloued Iohn Cabot, citizen of Venice, to Lewis, Sebastian and Santius, sonnes of the sayd Iohn, and to the heires of them and euery of them, and their deputies, full and free authority, leaue and power, to saile to all parts, countreys and seas of the East, of the West, and of the North, under our banners and ensignes, with fiue ships of what quantity or burden soever they may be, and as many mariners or men as they will haue with them in the sayd ships, upon their owne proper costs and charges, to seeke out, discouer and finde, whatsoeuer isles, countreys, regions or prouinces, of the heathens and infidels, whatsoeuer they be, and in what part of the world soeuer they be, which before this time haue been vnknownen to all Christians; and we haue granted to them, and also to euery one of them, the heires of them, and euery of them, and their deputies, and haue giuen them licence to set up our banners and ensignes in euery

village, towne, castle, isle, or maine land of them newly found.

And that the aforesayd Iohn and his sonnes, or their heires and assignes, may subdue, occupy and possesse, as our vassals and lieutenants, getting vnto vs the rule, title and iurisdiction of the same villages, townes, castles, and firme land so found. Yet so that the aforesayd Iohn and his sonnes and heires, and their deputies, be holden and bounden of all the fruits, profits, gaines and commodities growing of such nauigation for euery their voyage, as often as they shall arriue at our port of Bristol, (at the which port they shall be bound and holden onely to arriue), all manner of necessary costs and charges by them made, being deducted, to pay vnto vs in wares or money the fift part of the capital gaine so gotten; we giuing and granting vnto them and to their heires and deputies that they shall be free from all paying of customes of all and singular such merchandize as they shall bring with them from those places so newly found.

And moreouer we haue giuen and granted to them, their heires and deputies, that all the firme lands, isles, villages, townes, castles and places, whatsoever they be, that they shall chance to finde, may not of any other of our subjects be frequented or visited without the licence of the foresayd Iohn and his sonnes and their deputies, vnder paine of forfeiture, as well of their shippes as of all and singular goods of all them that shall presume to saile to those places so found.

Willing and most straightly commanding all and singular our subjects, as well on land as on sea, to give good assistance to the aforesayd Iohn, and his sonnes and deputies, and that as well in arming or furnishing their

ships or vessels, as in prouision of food, and in buying of victuals for their money, and all other things by them to be prouided necessary for the sayd nauigation, they do giue them all their helpe and fauour.

In witnesse whereof we haue caused to be made these our Letters patents. Witnesse ourselfe at Westminster, the fift day of March, in the eleventh yeere of our reign.

The sum and substance of all this is that John Cabot and his sons were empowered to fit out an expedition at their own expense for the purpose of making discoveries, on condition that they were to take possession of all the lands that they should find in the king's name, hold them subject to him, and also pay him one-fifth of all the profits which should accrue from their operations.

THE OLD MAP AT WHITEHALL.

The next memorial that remains of the voyages of the Cabots is a copy—contained in the works of ancient authors who wrote about a hundred years after the time that the voyages were made—of a legend or inscription which was recorded on a certain map which was then said to hang in a gallery of the royal palace at Westminster, and also in the houses of several private gentlemen. The map itself that was in the palace has disappeared. It is

supposed to have been destroyed at the time of a fire. No copy of it is known to exist in England, though it is said that a copy has been recently found in Germany. The copy of the inscription which we now have is one that has been preserved by being transferred, while the map was in existence, to the works of certain historians who were then attempting to ascertain the particulars of Cabot's life. The inscription upon the map was in Latin, but the purport of it was as follows :

THE INSCRIPTION ON THE MAP.

In the year of our Lord 1497, John Cabot, a Venetian, and his son Sebastian, with an English fleet from Bristol, discovered this land on the 24th of June, about five o'clock in the morning. He called the land *Prima Vista*, that is, first seen, because, as I suppose, it was that part whereof they had the first sight from the sea. The island which lies out before the main land he called *St. John's*, as, I think, because it was discovered on the day of St. John the Baptist. The inhabitants of the land are clothed in skins of beasts, and they hold them in as great estimation as we do our choicest garments. In their wars they use bows and arrows, pikes, darts, wooden clubs, and slings. The soil is barren and produces no fruit, but is full

of bears of a white color, and stags larger than ours. It abounds in fish, some of which are very great, as, for example, sea wolves (seals). There is a fish too, commonly called salmon, and soles more than a yard long. The island also produces hawks, though they are so black that they look like ravens, and also partridges and eagles, which are also black.

OTHER SOURCES OF INFORMATION.

We might go on in this way and mention in detail the different disconnected and accidental memorials from which all that we now know of the voyages by means of which the coasts of North America were first discovered, has been learned, but these specimens will suffice for our object, which has been merely to give the reader some general idea of the nature of the materials from which the history of early transactions of this kind is often derived. Next to this inscription on the map comes a record of a conversation which a certain Roman legate in Spain held with Sebastian Cabot, the son, some years afterwards, which conversation the legate reported in a certain written communication, by which means it was preserved and in due time published. There are many other incidental allusions of a similar kind scattered through

the works of many different authors, written in many different languages. All these have in later times been carefully collected and compared, and various attempts have been made to deduce from them a simple and connected narrative. Many points, however, are not clear, and many difficulties and discrepancies have arisen which have led to quite earnest controversies. We shall content ourselves with relating the prominent facts according to the prevailing understanding of them at the present day.

THE FIRST VOYAGE.

The patent was granted to Cabot and his sons in March, 1496. It was not until the following spring that the ship was ready to sail. The name of this ship was the *Matthew*.

It is pretty certain that of the three sons of John Cabot, Sebastian was the only one who accompanied his father on the expedition. The other two sons are named in the letters patent as members of the company who were to direct the undertaking, but there is no evidence that either of them went on the voyage. It has been considered doubtful whether John himself went, as there seems to be no direct reference to him in the accounts of the voyage that remain; and Sebastian

is almost always spoken of as the actual discoverer of the lands which were visited.

However this may be, the expedition sailed early in the summer of 1497, and after crossing the Atlantic, the voyagers discovered land in a high northern latitude. It is supposed that the land which they saw was the coast of Newfoundland or of Labrador.

THE SECOND VOYAGE.

On the return of the ship the news that land had been reached in that quarter of the world awakened great interest in England, both at court and among the merchants in the seaport towns, and arrangements were immediately made to send out a larger expedition. A new document, sometimes called a new patent, was obtained from the king, under which several ships were provided, and several hundred men enlisted, with a view of exploring the country more fully, and establishing a colony upon some portion of it, if a suitable site should be found, and if not, of finding some strait or opening through which the expedition might go on, and finally reach the eastern shores of India.

Quite a number of merchants, not only of Bristol, but also of London, took a deep interest in

this expedition, and many of them sent ventures of merchandise in the ships, to be traded with the natives of the countries which might be found. These ventures consisted of coarse cloth, caps, laces, knives, needles, beads, and other such things. Those who sent them expected to receive something extremely valuable in return—curious ornaments, perhaps, of gold and silver, or pearls, or gems, or costly spices.

This second expedition is known to have been under the command of Sebastian Cabot, notwithstanding that he was now only about twenty-two years old. It is supposed that in the interval his father had died.

OBSERVATIONS ON THE LAND.

There is some confusion in the accounts that remain of these two expeditions, making it difficult to keep the occurrences which took place in them distinct. In one or the other of them, or perhaps in both, on reaching the land, an exploring party went on shore to make observations upon the country and upon the inhabitants, and also upon the plants and animals which it produced. Cabot soon satisfied himself that he had not yet reached India, and he accordingly returned on board his ship with the view of continuing the voyage.

ADVANCE TO THE NORTHWARD.

The fleet sailed to the northward, keeping all the time near the coast, in hopes to find a passage through the land leading toward the west. The voyagers went on in this way until they reached a region where the sea was full of floating mountains of ice, which they were all very much surprised to behold. It is now known that these mountains of ice are brought down in a stream from Baffin's Bay, where they are formed by glaciers protruding into the sea, as described in a former chapter.

The expedition went on, but instead of discovering any opening leading toward the west, they found that the further they proceeded the more the coast seemed to trend toward the east. Precisely how far toward the northward they went is not certainly known, as the different accounts and statements in regard to this point do not agree. They, however, attained to so high a latitude that the day continued, as it were, during the whole twenty-four hours, and the sea became so encumbered with floating mountains of ice that it was dangerous to proceed any further.

MUTINY

The sailors, too, and, in fact the whole company became discontented and afraid. They were

appalled by the strange appearances which nature presented to their view in those remote regions. The immense icebergs floating in all directions around them; the bears and other uncouth monsters that they found haunting the floes; the unwonted aspect of the heavens, with the sun revolving in circles almost parallel with the horizon, and thus producing no proper night and no real and genuine day; all these things terrified them and filled their minds with a solemn awe. They were determined that they would proceed no further, and Cabot was finally compelled to yield to the mutinous spirit manifested by his crew. He accordingly turned his course toward the southward, in hopes to find some opening in that direction through which he might penetrate the land, and continue his voyage toward the Indies.

RETURN OF THE EXPEDITION.

The expedition pursued its course southward along the eastern coast of North America, looking everywhere for some opening in the land by which to pass on toward the west. But none was to be found. They went on in this way until they came to the West India islands, which had already been discovered and taken possession of by Columbus, and then, their provisions, moreover, having by this

time become nearly exhausted, they returned to England, bringing with them, of course, no treasures, and no very encouraging report of the lands which they had seen. They, however, made known to mankind the existence and the extent of the immense tract of land now known as the continent of North America.

SUBSEQUENT HISTORY OF CABOT.

We have little concern with the subsequent events of Cabot's life for the purposes of this history. It will be sufficient to say that, on his return to England, he found the country deeply disturbed by civil commotions, and the government were not in a condition to pay much attention to his plans. Besides, though he had explored a very extended line of coast, and though great advantages ultimately accrued to the English crown through the discoveries that he made, his expedition, on the whole, in respect to all the immediate results which the parties concerned had hoped to realize from it, had proved a failure. Cabot had not found a way to India, nor had he discovered any lands producing gold or silver, or gems, or spices, or any other means of suddenly enriching those who had originated the enterprise.

Cabot, however, acquired considerable renown

by these two voyages, and he continued afterward for many years to occupy a very commanding position in respect to the principal plans for exploring distant seas, in which different nations were then engaged. During this period he acted sometimes in the service of the king of England, and sometimes in that of the king of Spain. He made several long voyages himself, and during one of them he explored a large portion of the eastern coast of South America, where he founded colonies, and met with many extraordinary and interesting adventures, which it would, however, be out of place to relate particularly here.

On his return from these voyages he was advanced to positions of great dignity and honor under the governments both of England and of Spain—positions which gave him a controlling influence in respect to the organization and management of many of the great commercial enterprises of the day.

THE VOYAGE OF THE SERCHTHRIFT.

Cabot continued to take a great interest in these enterprises to the very close of his life. There is an account of his going down to Gravesend, near the mouth of the Thames, on the occasion of the departure of a vessel called the Serchthrift, which

was going on an exploring voyage into the seas to the northeastward of England, when he was about eighty years old, in order to manifest his interest in the expedition, and to bid those engaged in it farewell, and he joined in the festivities of the occasion so far as to take his place among the young people in a dance at an inn in the town, where he gave a sort of ball to the officers of the expedition and the damsels of the neighborhood.

The occurrence is related by the commander of the vessel, who kept a minute journal of the incidents and events of the voyage, in the following manner :

The 27th being Munday the Right worshipfull Sebastian Cabota came aboard our pinnesse at Grauesend accompanied with divers Gentlemen and Gentlewomen, who, after that they had viewed our Pinnesse, and tasted of such cheere as we could make them aboard, they went on shore, giuing to our mariners right liberall rewards. And the good old Gentleman Master Cabota gaue to the poore most liberal almes, wishing them to pray for the good fortune and prosperous success of the Serchthrift our Pinnesse. And then at the signe of the Christopher hee and his friends banketted, and made me and them that were in the company great cheere; and for very ioy that he had to see the towardnes of our intended discouery he entred into the dance himselfe, amongst the rest of the young and lusty company, which being ended hee and his friends departed most gently, commending us to the gouernance of Almighty God.

Cabot died at last at a very advanced age and full of honors. He retained his interest in everything pertaining to navigation and discovery to the last, and on his death-bed, when his mind was wandering, he talked of voyages and proposed routes and distant seas. He said, moreover, that God had revealed to him a way of ascertaining the longitude easy and sure, but that he was forbidden to reveal it to any human being.

The latitude at sea was always very readily obtained, as the elevation of the sun at mid-day, or that of the north star at night, gives it almost directly; but how to ascertain the longitude was the great problem and perplexity of navigators in those times, and the question occupied the thoughts of every mathematician and astronomer, as well as of every vain and ignorant schemer, in the land. The difficulty in respect to longitude arose from the fact that, inasmuch as the whole sky, with the sun, the moon, and all the stars, are in a state of continual rotation from east to west—which is the way in which longitude is reckoned—there is no fixed point to observe in that direction, and no standard of measurement or comparison which any instrument that was in use among the navigators of those days could make the basis of its observations.

CHAPTER VI.

THE DISCOVERY OF FLORIDA.

WHEN Columbus returned from his voyage and reported the results of it, the news spread rapidly throughout all the western part of Europe, and universal interest was awakened both among the governments and the people, in the new world which had thus been discovered. In the course of a few succeeding years a number of colonies were founded in the West India Islands, and in those portions of the continent lying contiguous to them, and various adventurers from among the higher classes of the population, especially from Spain and Portugal, came out with appointments to serve as governors, generals, secretaries, and in various other capacities, all expecting to make their fortunes out of the treasures of the new world, or to acquire renown by the exploits which they should perform in the conquest of it. This is not the place to relate in general the doings of these adventurers, as their exploits do not form directly a part of the history of our own country.

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But there is one among them that must be at least alluded to, on account of the fact that the continent, when it came to be known that there was a continent, and that it was so far removed from the eastern shores of Asia that the name which Columbus had given to the lands which he had discovered—the Indies—could not properly be extended to it, was called by his name.

AMERICUS VESPUTIUS.

He was an Italian merchant, a native of Florence. The nature of his business led him to take a great interest in everything relating to commerce and navigation. In the course of his travels about Europe he came at length to Seville in Spain, and he was residing there when Columbus made his first voyage. He afterward made several voyages to the newly discovered regions himself, but the accounts of them that remain are confused and contradictory. He is accused of having falsified his journals by ante-dating some of his voyages, and of having claimed credit for some that he never made, in order to enhance his merit in the estimation of mankind as a great discoverer. At any rate, after his return from such expeditions as he really did make, he was appointed to the office of grand pilot, as it was termed, under the govern-

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ment of Spain, which office gave him the charge of the preparation of charts for the use of navigators crossing the Atlantic, and of the distribution of them to the commanders of the ships. While in the exercise of the duties of this office, either he, or his friends for him, contrived that the new continent should be called by his name. They caused the name America to be inserted upon the charts, and this name soon became so firmly established that though many efforts at different times have been made to change it, none have succeeded. Nothing is more difficult than to change a name once widely disseminated among mankind.

Americus justified his calling the new continent by his name by claiming that he was the first who really discovered it—Columbus having, as he alleged, seen only islands until after he—that is Americus—had found his way to the main land. This claim is not generally allowed; and, at any rate, if Columbus was not the first to land upon the continent, that was a very trifling circumstance—one, in fact, of no moment whatever in estimating the degree of honor which should be awarded to him as the discoverer of the new world; and it seems to mankind very unjust that another should have the privilege of giving it his name, on grounds comparatively so trivial.

This is true, but, in fact, the injustice which has been done is more imaginary than real, for, after all, though Americus succeeded in giving the new continent his name, he obtained no glory, but rather censure and discredit by so doing. All the real and substantial honor of the discovery rests, in the opinion of mankind, and always will rest, with Columbus alone.

JOHN PONCE DE LEON AND THE FOUNTAIN OF YOUTH.

The first portion of the territory now belonging to the United States which was visited by the Spanish and Portuguese adventurers was the southeastern portion, now forming the states of South Carolina, Georgia, and Florida. The shores of Florida were visited first by Ponce de Leon, who was at that time the governor of the island Porto Rico. The Spaniards who came to America at this time imagined themselves in the Indies, according to the ideas of Columbus, which still prevailed, and they entertained the most extravagant conceptions, not only of treasures to be discovered, but also of various magical wonders which they imagined the country to contain. It would almost seem that they had read the Arabian Nights Entertainments, and thought that they had found

a country in which all the gorgeous descriptions which that book contained were to be fully realized.

Ponce de Leon heard accounts from some of the Indians that at a considerable distance to the northward, on the main land, there was a magical spring, which was endowed with such powers that any one who should bathe in its waters would be restored to youth again. So he organized an expedition to go and find it. He did not find the spring, but he discovered and explored a considerable extent of country upon the main land, and named it Florida. This was in 1512, just twenty years after the first voyage of Columbus.

It has been said, and the idea is so agreeable that we are all predisposed to entertain it, that De Leon named the country Florida on account of the profusion of flowers with which the woods were adorned at the time that he visited it; but the truth is, probably, that he gave it that name from the circumstance that he first saw the land on Palm Sunday, a sacred day in the Catholic church, which, in the Spanish language, is called Pasqua Florida. It was a general custom with all these Spanish navigators to give to any place that they discovered the name of the saint or of the festival, which was associated, in the calendar, with the day on which they discovered it.

COMMENCEMENT OF HOSTILITIES WITH THE AMERICAN INDIANS.

The Spaniards who came from the old world in those days to make settlements in the new, brought with them sailors to man their ships, and soldiers to conquer the countries which they should discover, but they could not well bring a sufficient number of laborers to till the soil and work the mines, when they came to establish permanent colonies, and they adopted the system of compelling the natives to work for them, without paying them wages. This was the origin of the system of American slavery. It was from an attempt made by this same Ponce de Leon to carry off a cargo of Indians from South Carolina, in order to make slaves of them in his island of Porto Rico, that the first serious hostilities were excited between the Indians and the Europeans.

This circumstance occurred soon after Ponce de Leon's first voyage to Florida. A company was formed to work certain mines on the island of St. Domingo, now usually called Hayti, which lay directly to the west of Porto Rico. This company, of course with the sanction of the governor, sent off two vessels to the coasts of what is now South Carolina. They landed and opened an intercourse with the Indians, whom they found kind, gentle

and hospitable. After trading with them for some days, and gaining their confidence by a great show of friendliness and good-will, they invited them to come on board the vessels, and when there they invited them below, under pretense of showing them the interior arrangements. When the Indians were all below they suddenly clapped down the hatches and barred and bolted them, and then immediately made sail. The poor Indians, torn thus suddenly and treacherously from their families and homes, and borne away against their will, never returned. One of the ships foundered on the voyage to St. Domingo, and all on board perished. The other arrived, and the unhappy captives brought on board of her were compelled to pass the remainder of their lives in digging in the mines for the benefit of their captors.

The tidings of this outrageous crime spread rapidly, of course, among the tribes living along the neighboring coasts, and they awakened a feeling of universal indignation. Of course, all confidence in any professions of friendship which the Europeans might thenceforth make was gone, and in its place arose the fiercest resentment and rage, which on the next occasion of the landing of a company of Europeans on their shores led to acts of bitter retaliation and revenge. And thus it was

that the first hostilities with the American Indians arose,

THE FIRST ACT OF REVENGE.

It was not long before an opportunity occurred for the Indians to begin taking their revenge. One of the prominent members of the company that sent the expedition to kidnap the Indians on the main land was a certain personage named Lucas Vasquez d'Ayllon, who, when he heard the report brought back by the expedition, conceived the idea of taking possession of the country and making himself a sort of kingdom there. So he went to Spain and applied at court for a commission which should give him authority to do this, from the king and queen.

After several years of maneuvering and solicitation he at length obtained his commission, and returned to St. Domingo. There he fitted out an expedition, consisting of three vessels, and taking with him a proper supply of men and of military stores, he set sail. As soon as he reached the coast he entered St. Helena Sound, near where the town of Beaufort is now situated.* Here one of his vessels unfortunately went ashore and was

* See map at the commencement of the Eighth Chapter.

lost. With the other two he went a little further and landed. The Indians, who seem now to have thought that their turn was come to practice treachery, pretended to be very friendly. They engaged in traffic with the strangers at once, without manifesting any suspicion or fear, and in the end invited them to go a little way into the interior of the country to see their town. So completely was d'Ayllon deceived by their artifices that he allowed two hundred of his men to accept this invitation.

The Indians conducted the two hundred to the town, and there feasted and entertained them for two or three days. At first the men were somewhat wary and kept upon their guard, but in the course of the three days they gradually dismissed their apprehensions, and began at last to feel quite at home. On the night of the third day the Indians came upon them suddenly, under a preconcerted arrangement, and massacred them all as they lay asleep.

The Indians then immediately set off for the encampment of the expedition on the shore, where d'Ayllon himself and the rest of his company remained. They crept along in silence and secrecy through the woods, and at length, after pausing a moment on the outskirts of the encampment, to

make ready for a simultaneous assault, they suddenly burst upon the astonished Spaniards in their sleep, with terrific screams and yells, and with showers of darts and arrows. The Spaniards fled to their boats. The Indians pressed after them, beating them down by the way with tomahawks and war-clubs. Vast numbers were killed. The rest succeeded in getting off to their ships, and making their escape from the country. And this was the end of d'Ayllon's plan of making himself a kingdom on those southern shores.

NARVAEZ.

The next adventurer who undertook to make an incursion into the Florida country was a certain personage named Pamphilio de Narvaez. He had been engaged with the celebrated Hernando Cortez in various adventures further south, in Mexico, and had quarreled with him and been beaten by him in the contention, and he then went home to carry his complaints and accusations against his rival to the court of Spain. He did not obtain much satisfaction in respect to his alleged grievances, but at length, after seven years of intriguing, maneuvering and delay, he received from the king the appointment of viceroy or governor of Florida—that is to say, he was invested with authority to go and

conquer the country, establish over it the dominion of the king of Spain, and then exercise the dominion in the king's name.

He set off from Spain in the summer of 1527, thirty-five years after the first discovery of America by Columbus, and about ten or twelve years after the defeat of d'Ayllon, referred to under the preceding head. His expedition consisted of several ships, which contained about six hundred men, a considerable number of horses, and all necessary equipments and stores.

Narvaez was quite unfortunate in his voyage across the Atlantic, and also in approaching the shores of Cuba, where he stopped to refit before proceeding to his destination, having encountered a succession of terrible storms on the way, which, through the hardships which they entailed upon the crews, and the wrecking of one or two of his vessels which they caused, lost him a large number of his men. He finally sailed, however, for Cuba with those that remained, and at length, in April, 1528, nine months or more after leaving Spain, he found himself approaching the shores of Florida with about four hundred men and forty or fifty horses, at his disposal. Of course, there were several Spanish cavaliers and gentlemen in the company, who filled various subordinate offices

under Narvaez' command. Among these was one named Alva de Vaca—the secretary and paymaster of the expedition—who will be referred to particularly in the sequel.

THE LANDING.

Narvaez approached the shore on the western coast of Florida, near Tampa Bay. From the



MAP.

decks of the vessels, as soon as they came in view of the land, the natives could be seen assembled in

considerable numbers on the beach, gazing apparently in great astonishment at the little fleet, as it gradually came in. Their wigwams could be seen too, back at a little distance from the shore.

The landing took place on the following day. The Indians, however, did not wait to receive their visitors. When they found that they were coming on shore they abandoned their wigwams and fled into the woods.

The work of landing a considerable body of men, especially if they are accompanied by a troop of horse, on a wild coast, where, of course, there can be no facilities for debarkation, is a very slow and laborious process. It consumed in this case a large part of the day, but at length it was safely accomplished. The men and likewise the horses, which last were in a very lean and exhausted condition, were safely conveyed to the shore. As soon as they had landed Narvaez took formal possession of the territory as his kingdom, with appropriate ceremonies, and all the men under his command surrendered the commissions which they had held hitherto under the authority of the government of Spain, and received new ones, which Narvaez granted them in his own name, as the governor of the country in which they had landed. They thus, as it were, transferred their allegiance to him, and

recognized him as thenceforth their acknowledged ruler.

The next day some of the Indians who had fled to the woods began cautiously to come back again, one by one. Narvaez treated them kindly, and endeavored to communicate with them, with a hope of obtaining some information about the country; but he could not succeed at all, either in making himself understood, or in understanding them.

PLANS FOR ADVANCING INTO THE COUNTRY.

Narvaez was not particularly pleased with the aspect of the country immediately around him, and he determined to proceed to the northward and westward along the coast, in the hope of finding something more promising. He first, however, sent out explorers in various directions, some of whom on their return reported that the whole country bordering on the coast in the direction in which they were going was entirely impassable, being obstructed by innumerable bays and inlets setting in from the sea, and communicating with vast lagoons and stagnant pools filled with aquatic plants, while the land intervening between them consisted of swamps, marshes, cane-brakes, and impenetrable thickets.

Narvaez, accordingly, concluded that he would

go back further into the interior in his march, in hope of finding higher and drier land. In the mean time his ships were to proceed in the same direction by sea, keeping as near the coast as possible, and watching at the various points that they should pass for signals from him. Narvaez spent a fortnight in making the necessary preparations, but at length everything was ready, and he commenced his march on the first day of May.

PROGRESS OF THE MARCH.

Narvaez and his troop advanced very slowly—at a rate upon the average of not more than four miles a day—so difficult was the country, and so devious were the ways which they were compelled to pursue in order to avoid the swamps, and stagnant lakes, and the innumerable inlets coming in from the sea. They were obliged to keep constantly on the watch against enemies, too, for though the Indians seemed not to be strong enough openly to attack such a force as that which Narvaez commanded, they continually evinced an unfriendly disposition, and Narvaez could not ascertain positively what their views and intentions were, for he could not communicate with them. He had no interpreters; nor had he any other means of coming to an understanding with them.

The object which Narvaez had in view in this march was to find some great native kingdom or state to conquer and rule over, as Pizarro had done in Peru, and Cortez in Mexico. Accordingly, as he went on, he looked for a cultivated country, and for cities and towns, and indications of gold and silver. But he found nothing of the kind. The country presented to view only one continued succession of swamps and canebrakes, and entangled and impenetrable thickets. In many places where the soil appeared firm upon the surface, it would tremble and fluctuate under the tread for a great distance around, showing that the appearance of stability was illusive, and that the treacherous ground, covered with grass and herbage so green and beautiful above, was nothing but a slough of semi-fluid mire below. All these regions, too, swarmed with rattlesnakes, lizards, alligators, and many other hateful animals that breed in mud and slime.

There was a portion of upland country, it is true, and here were sometimes found fields of maize and of cotton, which were cultivated by the Indians. The swamps, too, produced in many places large quantities of wild rice, a very nutritious article of food. In the neighborhood of such grounds as these there were villages—if villages

they might be called—consisting of rude wigwams, inhabited by rude and savage men. In a word, Narvaex found none of the elements out of which the kingdom was to be constructed which his imagination had painted in such glowing colors when he set out from Spain. There were no great cities and towns like those which had been found in Mexico and Peru—no splendid palaces filled with treasures—no great kings and princes to be made captive—no gold, no spices, no gems—nothing but wretched huts, and around them squalid Indians, so low in their barbarism that they seemed to add fresh deformity to the dreary region of swamps and reptiles in the midst of which they lived.

Narvaex went on, hoping to find something more attractive as he advanced, but still greatly vexed and disappointed, and in a very unamiable state of mind.

CROSSING THE SUWANEE RIVER.

At last, about the middle of June, he arrived on the banks of the Suwanee River. He had gone so far into the interior that he came upon this river at a considerable distance from its mouth, but still the stream was wide and the current was rapid, and he encountered considerable difficulty in trans-

porting his men and animals across it. Indeed, one horse was borne down by the current, with his rider upon his back, and both were drowned. The remainder of his force, however, passed the river in safety, and Narvaez now entered a region of country which was somewhat more favorable for the occupation of man, and where he hoped he should at length find cities and towns and a more wealthy population. Instead of which, however, he only found more numerous enemies to encounter, and a fiercer and more determined resistance.

Still the Indians would not meet him in the open field. They contented themselves with following his steps, sometimes making false treaties of peace with them, for by this time he had learned to hold some communication with them, sometimes drawing him into ambuscades, and sometimes contenting themselves with harassing his march, and picking off his men with their arrows from thickets in which they lay concealed while the column of troops was passing.

THE BLOODHOUNDS.

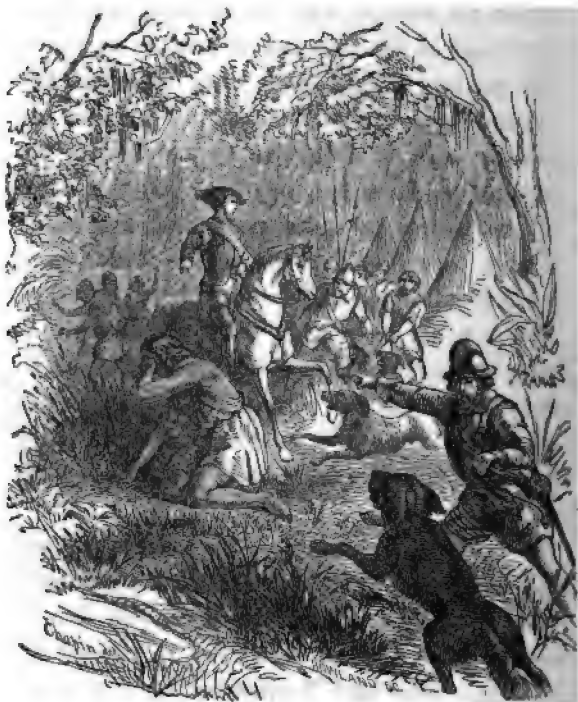
Among the other means of warfare against the Indians which Narvaez brought with him was a supply of bloodhounds. All the Spanish generals made great use of bloodhounds in their contests

with the natives of these countries. These dogs, when used thus against human beings, are trained to follow the scent of man, and in doing their work they become as ferocious and as terrible as tigers. They are very large, being more than two feet high, and extremely swift of foot. When once put upon the track of a fugitive they never lose the scent, and so fierce are they for blood that often they can neither be called, nor pulled, nor beaten off, when once they have seized their victim, until they have killed and half devoured him.

Narvaez not only used these bloodhounds to pursue and capture Indians on his march, but he sometimes, as was the custom with other Spanish commanders, used them as executioners to carry into effect a sentence deliberately pronounced upon a captive.

In one case, for example, he became very much displeased with a certain chief named Hirrihigua, who made a sort of treaty of peace with him, as Narvaez understood it, soon after he crossed the Suwanee. Afterward Narvaez became so incensed with something which Hirrihigua had done, that he ordered his nose to be cut off, and then brought out his mother and set the bloodhounds upon her. The bloodhounds sprang upon her with the utmost fury, like wild beasts upon their prey. They

seized her by the throat, killed her immediately, and then tore her to pieces and devoured her.



THE EXECUTIONERS.

INCREASING DIFFICULTIES.

These and similar atrocities perpetrated by Narvaez on his advance into the country beyond the Suwanee exasperated the minds of the Indians to

the last degree. The tribes made common cause against him, and endeavored to harrass and impede his march in every possible way. There were no roads, and though the expedition had now passed in some degree beyond the region of the swamps and everglades, they found instead interminable forests, which were everywhere so encumbered with fallen trees and dense undergrowth, that the labor was immense of cutting a way through them. Both men and horses began to suffer now a great deal for want of food, for Narvaez had brought no provisions with him except a two days' supply at the commencement of his march. He had trusted to the resources of the country, which he had expected to find populous and wealthy like the kingdoms of Mexico and Peru. The horses began to give out. The men, too, suffered so much from hunger, that when a horse could march no further they slaughtered him for food. At last they were reduced to such short allowance that for two or three weeks they lived mainly upon roots and other esculent substances which they found in the woods. They made great use for this purpose, it is said, of certain tender leaves that grew upon the palmetto tree. They made every possible effort to induce the Indians to supply them with food, but without any success.

ARRIVAL AT APALACHE.

They pressed on, however, notwithstanding all these difficulties, being cheered by the intelligence that there was a town at some distance before them, called Apalache. If they could reach that town they hoped to procure there all that they required. Great was their disappointment, however, when at last they reached it, to find that it consisted of a miserable Indian hamlet of about forty wigwams, forsaken and desolate, and wholly devoid of every thing that could supply their wants or minister to their comfort, except to furnish them a scanty and cheerless shelter from the winds and rain. The inhabitants had abandoned their dwellings and fled, when they learned that the invaders were approaching.

There were, however, some fields of corn growing near, the ears in which were beginning to get ripe, thus promising a moderate supply of food. Narvaez established himself in the deserted village, and though he was attacked two or three times by the Indians who still lurked in the neighborhood, he remained there for nearly a month, resting and recruiting his men, and seeking information from every quarter, in order to obtain some light, if possible, to aid him in determining what course to pursue.

NARVAEZ TURNS HIS COURSE TOWARDS THE SEA.

After making diligent inquiry in every direction, both by sending out scouts and explorers to examine the neighboring country, and by closely questioning every Indian that he could lay hands upon, he learned that the country before and around him was little else than one vast solitude, filled with great lakes and almost impenetrable forests. The land was very little occupied. The people were few and scattered, and, what was worse, extremely poor. There was no place in all the region so large as Apalache. The sea lay to the southward, and was about nine days' journey distant. He learned, moreover, that there was a town called Aute lying in that direction, the inhabitants of which were pretty well supplied with the common food of the country, which consisted of maize, beans, pumpkins, and fish.

Narvaez determined to turn to the southward. He would go to Aute at any rate, and there consider whether to proceed onward to the sea. He accordingly put his army in motion again, but he found the difficulties of the way greater than ever. Immense bodies of water lay spread over the country in every direction, and often the horses—the few that were left—and the men, were compelled to

wade for long distances through these marshes and lagoons. The Indians of the country watched them as they passed, lying in wait for them in every thicket, and shooting at them with their arrows from behind logs and trees. In this manner many of the men were killed, and still more were wounded, while the Indians almost always escaped with impunity.

This march continued for nine days, and at the end of that time the expedition arrived at Aute. They found the village deserted, for all the inhabitants had fled at their approach. But there were large corn-fields growing near, with corn nearly ripe, and pumpkins and beans in abundance. Thus, for the moment, the almost famished soldiers were once more supplied with food.

NARVAEZ DISCOURAGED.

Narvaez was now, however, becoming effectually discouraged. The rich and powerful kingdom which he had hoped to discover and to conquer, and which his imagination had painted in such glowing colors, had entirely disappeared from his view, and was replaced by a dismal picture of swamps, quagmires, desolation and poverty, covering the whole land. He had now been six months journeying through the country, and the prospect,

instead of growing brighter, seemed to become darker and more discouraging every day. Slowly, reluctantly, and with many desperate internal struggles against his inevitable fate, he determined to make his way to the sea—if, indeed, there should prove to be still strength left in his exhausted men to accomplish the rest of the journey—in hopes that he should there find the ships that he had sent along the shore, or at least learn some tidings of them. He did not yet entirely abandon all hope, for if he had found the ships he intended to continue his researches some distance further to the west, by coasting along the shore, in hopes of finding some possible chance for making a new attempt to land.

BOAT BUILDING ON THE SEA SHORE.

The sequel of this melancholy story is soon told. After toiling on for some days longer, Narvaez at length reached the sea, but nothing was to be seen or heard of the ships. Narvaez now found his condition really desperate. The men were too much exhausted by hunger, sickness and fatigue, to move any further. They were, besides, growing insubordinate and mutinous, and his authority over them for any other purpose than that of contriving and executing some plan for leaving the country

was gone. He determined therefore to undertake the work of building boats, in order to coast along the shore in them, in hopes to find the missing vessels, and perhaps, in the last resort, to attempt to make his way to Cuba.

But how to build these boats was the difficulty, for he had neither mechanics nor tools for the work, nor even any suitable materials.

While he was pondering the difficulties by which he was thus surrounded, one of his men came to him in his perplexity and said that if a blacksmith's forge was necessary for the work he thought he could assist in making one, by contriving something that would serve for bellows. He could make pipes out of reeds, he said, and attach to them a bag formed of the skin of a deer, to contain the wind. This plan was at once carried into effect. A forge was made, and immediately the most ingenious of the men were set to work converting all articles in their possession that were made of iron into boat-building tools. Stirrups, spurs, cross-bows, swords, and everything else of the kind that could be spared, were heated in the forge, and converted into saws, chisels, axes, and other such tools. The smaller articles were fashioned into nails, and the work of building the boats was commenced. Timber and planks were ob-

tained from the neighboring woods. A substitute for oakum was made from the bark of the palmetto tree, while the pine furnished pitch for covering the seams. The men made ropes of the hair taken from the manes and tails of the horses—the horses themselves being one after another killed for food—and they ripped their shirts to pieces to get cloth for the sails.

The men were all so eager to make their escape from the country that they worked upon the boats with the utmost diligence, and in little more than a fortnight they had finished five. All this time they lived in a great measure upon oysters, which a portion of the company, detached for this purpose, dug on the adjoining shores. The work of procuring these oysters was, however, very dangerous, for Indians were lying in ambush all the time in the adjoining thickets ready to shoot at every one whom they should find at any distance from the camp, and in the course of the fortnight they killed ten.

The boats were about thirty feet long. There were two hundred and eighty men to embark in them. These were all that remained of the four hundred that had landed in the country about six months before. This number divided among the boats, in addition to the necessary stores, over-

loaded them to such a degree that when they were all on board and were ready to set sail, the gun-wales were but seven or eight inches out of the water.

END OF THE EXPEDITION.

In this condition, when all were ready, the boats put off from the shore. Of course, it would have been certain destruction to expose such embarkations as these to the open sea, and so the little fleet was kept in smooth water inside the reefs and sand-bars and low islands which here line the coast. They steered for the westward, supposing that the vessels had gone on in that direction. The line of boats crept thus slowly along the shore, with a terrible danger threatening them on either hand. Seaward, just outside the range of reefs and sand-bars, they could see the white crests of the seas rolling in and threatening to overwhelm them, while along the margin of the land every thicket concealed a party of exasperated and merciless enemies thirsting for their blood. Between these two lines of danger there was but a narrow way along which they could pass, so as to be safe from the surf on one side and beyond the range of the arrows on the other.

They went on in this way, growing weaker and

weaker, and suffering more and more every day, for a month. One thing favored them, it is true. They succeeded in capturing one or two Indian canoes, by which means they were enabled to divide and so lighten their loads. They often landed, in their desperation, to seek for food, sometimes attacking an Indian village to procure it. On one such occasion they were beaten off by the Indians, and Narvaez was struck in the face by a stone and very seriously wounded.

At last one night, as they were toiling despairingly on, in the vicinity, it is supposed, of where the town of Pensacola now stands, being reduced almost to the last extreme of destitution and suffering, a storm came up, with the wind blowing off the land. The men were lying almost lifeless in the boats, many of them too weak to lift an oar. Narvaez saw now that the end had come. He told his officers and men that the time had arrived for each one to take care of himself. He released them from their duty to him, wished them success in the endeavors which any of them might make to save their lives, and bade them farewell.

The boats were scattered by the storm, and all but one was driven to sea and lost. One succeeded in reaching the shore, or was driven upon it at some projecting point. The men on board of

this boat were almost lifeless. The Indians, finding them in this piteous condition, had compassion upon them, took them to their wigwams, and restored them to life.

One of the men thus saved was Alva de Vaca, the secretary and paymaster of the expedition, before referred to. He was carried back into the interior, and remained a captive in the Indian country for *eight* years. In the course of that time he was transferred from tribe to tribe, and conveyed from one territory to another, first across the Mississippi and then on further to the west, until he had traversed the whole continent, and reached California, where at length he found a Spanish ship, in which he embarked, and in due time arrived in Spain. He was received on his return as one that had risen from the dead.

This De Vaca wrote and published an account of the expedition of Narvaez, and of his own adventures after his escape, and it is from this narrative that the facts related in this chapter have been derived.

CHAPTER VII.

FERNANDO DE SOTO.

COMMENCEMENT OF DE SOTO'S CAREER.

FERNANDO DE SOTO is immortalized in history as the discoverer of the Mississippi River. It is true that De Vaca, the officer who was saved from the expedition of Narvaez, and afterward traversed the country to California, must have crossed the Mississippi, and some persons have thought that Narvaez himself, in his boats, reached the mouth of that river before the boats were lost. But this is not certain. At any rate De Soto was the first to explore any considerable portion of the stream, and to make its existence effectually known to mankind.

De Soto was a Spanish general, and he first attracted attention in his day by various exploits which he performed in Nicaragua and Peru, in connection with the famous Pizarro. Indeed, he was for a time Pizarro's second in command, but being dissatisfied with the portion of the spoil which fell to his share in Peru, although, in fact,

the share which he received was so great that he was enormously enriched by it, he determined to undertake an enterprise on his own account. After long revolving the subject in his mind, the plan on which he finally settled was to repeat the attempt in which Narvaez had so signally failed, as related in the last chapter, namely, that of making the conquest of Florida and establishing a kingdom there.

The term Florida, in those days, was not restricted in its application to the present limits of the state of Florida, but was applied indefinitely to the whole region in that quarter of the continent which had been or was to be discovered.

Since the attempt of Narvaez ten years had now elapsed, and no one had thus far seemed disposed to repeat the undertaking which had terminated so disastrously for him. Narvaez had penetrated but very little way into the interior, and, therefore, very little was yet known of the country except the mere aspect of the shore. De Soto imagined that at some distance within there might exist cities and towns, and cultivated fields, and a semi-civilized people possessed of vast treasures of gold and silver, such as had been found so abundant in Mexico and Peru. This was indeed the prevailing idea among these adventurers in respect to all the

regions of Central America, excepting so far as they had been explored, and no information had yet been received in relation to Florida and the adjacent countries which was calculated to dispel these agreeable illusions.

OUTFIT OF DE SOTO'S EXPEDITION.

As soon as De Soto received his commission from the king of Spain, and the nature of the enterprise which he proposed to undertake was made known, a great number of volunteers offered to join him, among whom were many gentlemen of birth and education. These persons were attracted by the hopes of wealth and fame which they were to acquire in carrying out the undertaking, and they had great confidence in De Soto as a commander. Besides the advantage that he possessed in his abundant wealth, which enabled him to fit out his expedition in the most perfect manner, he was personally a man of great energy of character, and also of extraordinary physical strength and power of endurance. Indeed, he was in every respect well fitted to be placed at the head of such an undertaking.

He sailed from Spain in the month of April, 1538, with a fleet of ten ships and an army of a thousand men.

DIFFICULTIES AT THE OUTSET.

In company with De Soto's ships there were to go out several other vessels destined for Mexico. The commander of this Mexican fleet was a certain Gonzalo de Salazar, but during the voyage across the Atlantic the whole squadron was to be under the general command of De Soto. De Salazar was not very much pleased to be thus put under De Soto's orders, even for a time, and soon after the voyage was commenced—on the first night, in fact, after the ships had put to sea—he pressed on in advance of the whole fleet—his vessel having been, it seems, the best sailer—thus taking precedence of his superior officer, in violation of all the rules of naval etiquette. De Soto made signals for him to fall back, but when he found that De Salazar did not regard them he fired upon him twice in quick succession. The first shot passed just over the deck of Salazar's vessel, raking it from the stern to the bow, cutting through the sails in its course, and damaging the masts and rigging. The second shot struck the hull of the ship, and carried away all the bulwarks on one side. The ship was thus completely disabled, and as De Soto's ship was coming up close behind at full speed the two vessels came into collision, and

the rigging became entangled. De Soto's men, by his orders, sprang to the yards and cut away the rigging of Salazar's vessel and thus cleared his own ship, leaving the other more damaged than ever.

De Soto immediately afterward brought Salazar to trial for his insubordination and disobedience, and was greatly inclined to cut off his head; but upon Salazar's making full submission and begging for his life, with many promises of good behavior in future, he finally pardoned him.

ARRIVAL ON THE COAST OF FLORIDA.

The voyage across the Atlantic was made in safety. The fleet repaired first to the port of Santiago in the island of Cuba. De Soto remained in Cuba for some time, and engaged in various enterprises, and met with various adventures there, which can not be here described. He, however, at length set sail for the coast of Florida, where he soon arrived in safety; but the voyage across the Atlantic had occupied so much time, and the delay which he had experienced at the island of Cuba had been so great, that it was more than a year after he embarked from Spain before he reached his ultimate destination. He arrived in sight of land about the middle of May, 1539. He cruised

along the coast for a few days, until at length he entered a bay, supposed to be the one now called Tampa bay, but which he, in accordance with the spirit of religious pretension on which the popularity of these expeditions in Spain greatly depended, called the bay of the Holy Ghost. He immediately made arrangements for landing, and succeeded in putting about three hundred men on shore that night.

The landing party watched all the time very closely for Indians, but they did not see any that night, and De Soto began to think that all was safe, and that he should be able to effect the landing of his whole force before any should appear.

But though the Spaniards had not seen any of the natives, the natives had seen them, and had intentionally kept out of sight themselves, for the purpose of putting the strangers off their guard, intending to surprise and attack them as soon as a favorable moment should arrive.

Accordingly, the next morning, just before day, when De Soto's men were all asleep in their encampment, the Indians made a sudden irruption upon them, terrifying the men with vociferations and yells of the most frightful character, and overwhelming them with a shower of darts and javelins. As this was the first experience which De

Soto's troops had had of such an attack, they were thrown into a panic, and they fled precipitately down to the beach. The alarm was soon communicated to the ships, and assistance was sent to the men on shore, and finally the Indians were driven off. De Soto himself, however, narrowly escaped being killed. His horse was killed under him by an arrow, which came with such force that it penetrated through the covering of the saddle, and entered seven or eight inches into the animal's body.

The Indians now fled, leaving the way clear to the invaders to advance. De Soto accordingly, after landing all his forces, marched with them about two miles into the interior, and took possession of a village of wigwams which the occupants had abandoned on his approach.

DE SOTO OBTAINS AN INTERPRETER.

At the time when Narvaez made his invasion of Florida, as related in the last chapter, one of his men, named John Ortiz, had been captured by the Indians and taken into the interior of the country, where he had been saved from death by the wife of a chieftain, and had afterward been taken as a slave by another chieftain, with whom he had lived since that time. His master had kept him in close

subjection, and had employed him in various servile labors, but had in other respects used him well.

The name of this chieftain was Mucoso, which, being interpreted, means the Little Bear. When he heard that a party of white men had landed on the coast, he determined to send a delegation down to meet them and to offer peace. So he organized a troop of eighty Indians, and putting John Ortiz at the head of them sent them forth.

In the mean time De Soto had heard that Ortiz was still alive, and had learned in some way where he was, and he determined to send for him. So he sent off a detachment of sixty horsemen, under the command of a proper officer, to proceed to Little Bear's village and find Ortiz if he could, and bring him in to the camp. The Indian troop sent by Little Bear and the squadron of horse sent by De Soto met each other on the way.

The Indians were terrified at the sight of the horses and fled, advising Ortiz to fly with them. He, however, would not do so, but stood his ground until the Spaniards came up.

Now Ortiz had been so long in the Indian country that he had well nigh forgotten his own language, and being dressed like the Indians, or, as being, like them, not dressed at all, for

they wore nothing but feathers in their hair and a very simple garment about the loins—he was not to be distinguished from one of the savages. And the Spaniards being greatly excited at the sight of the Indians, rushed on toward them as soon as they saw them with so much impetuosity, in spite of all the efforts of their commander to restrain them, that Ortiz would have been run over and killed if he had not had the presence of mind to make the sign of the cross. He did this by holding up his bow and placing his arm across it near one end. This signal arrested the attention of the foremost of the troop, so that they wheeled their horses in time to save him.

They immediately asked him if he was John Ortiz, and on his answering that he was, one of them took him up behind him on his horse, and the whole troop returned with him to De Soto's camp.

THE STORY OF ORTIZ.

The account which Ortiz gave of himself, when he had so far recovered his recollection of his mother tongue as to be able to tell his story, was quite singular. He said that he came to the country with the expedition of Narvaez ten years before. He did not land with the other

troops, but remained with those who were left on board the vessels, in order that they might navigate them along the coast. This party had orders to watch at every place where they could approach the shore for signals from the land party, and on one occasion, when they approached the land in this way, they saw a company of Indians on the beach, making signals for them to come on shore: This the commander of the ships at first refused to do, but the Indians produced something white which had the appearance of a letter, and after waving it in the air so as to call the attention of those on board the vessels to it, they put it into a cleft at the end of a reed, and set the reed up in the sand on the beach. They then withdrew into the thickets.

The captain thought that the paper must be a letter from the party on the land, and that it had been given to the Indians to deliver to those on board the ships, and he finally concluded to send a boat on shore to get it. Four persons went in this boat, and among them was Ortiz himself. Ortiz was then a young man of about eighteen years of age.

The moment that the four boatmen set foot upon the beach the Indians rushed down out of the thickets, made them all prisoners, and carried

them into the interior to Hirrihigua, the chieftain whose mother Narvaez had caused to be devoured by bloodhounds. It seems that the Indians had been sent by Hirrihigua to make the capture, in order that he might have the means of revenging the brutal outrage which his family had suffered.

Accordingly, after keeping the prisoners for a short time, to exhibit them in the neighborhood and exult over them, he brought them out one after another into an inclosure arranged for the purpose, and exposed them there to be shot at with arrows and javelins by any of the tribe that chose to join in the work, until they were dead.

When three of them had been disposed of in this way, and the turn of Ortiz came, two of the women—the wife and daughter of the chief—were moved to pity by his youthful appearance, and begged for his life. “This is only a boy,” said they. “Do not kill him.” Their intercessions prevailed. Ortiz was spared, and soon afterward he made his escape from Hirrihigua to another chieftain, who received and protected him, and kept him in his household from that day forward as a slave.

PREPARATIONS FOR THE CAMPAIGN.

De Soto remained three or four weeks at his

encampment near the bay, in order to rest and recruit his men and his horses after their voyage, and also to make preparations for his proposed campaign in the interior. He made diligent effort to open communications with the chiefs of the tribes inhabiting that neighborhood, in order to obtain intelligence in respect to the country. Ortiz could give him very little information, as he had been kept closely confined in one place during his captivity, and had been employed wholly in menial occupations. He, however, rendered good service as an interpreter.

De Soto was not very successful in cultivating a good understanding with the chiefs. They had had too much experience of the treachery and cruelty of the Spaniards in the visits which former adventurers had paid them to place any confidence in his promises, and though they sometimes pretended to be friendly, their real wish was to trammel the movements of the hated invaders in every possible way, and in the end either to eject them from the country or destroy them. The consequence was that skirmishes and fights were continually breaking out between the Spaniards and the Indians, by which the former were much harassed. The great aim of the Indians was to draw

their enemies into ambuscades, or into the swamps, where their horses would sink into the mire.

THE ADVENTURE OF VASCO PORCALLEO.

One of De Soto's lieutenants, named Vasco Porcallo, met with an adventure which nearly cost him his life, and entirely discouraged him from proceeding with the expedition. He went out one day at the head of a detachment to attack a party of Indians. The Indians fled into a swamp. Porcallo ordered his men to follow them. The men hung back, and Porcallo, to set them a good example, rode on upon the soft ground, where soon his horse began to sink, and finally went in all over, carrying his rider with him. With infinite difficulty Porcallo was at last extricated, though not until he had been nearly suffocated in the mire.

He was a man somewhat advanced in life, and had joined De Soto's expedition with the idea that he was coming to a rich and cultivated country like Mexico and Peru. But this adventure, taken in connection with the general aspect which the enterprise was now beginning to present, determined him to leave the work to younger men. So he distributed his arms, his horses, and the various accoutrements and appointments which he had pro-

vided for the campaign among the officers, and went again on board his ship to return with it to Spain.

DISPOSITION OF THE FLEET.

As for De Soto, his resolution still remained firm. He was very confident that by going far enough into the interior he should find the rich and fertile country which he sought. Narvaez had, after all, only followed the line of the coast in the expedition which he had made, and his failure was therefore no proof that there might not be a populous kingdom and a wealthy capital further in the interior. In Mexico, the capital, and the richest part of the country, had been found at a great distance from the sea. So he determined to send away the ships, in order that his men might dismiss from their minds all idea of escaping by means of them in case of a reverse. He accordingly landed all the provisions and military stores, and then, reserving four vessels for such naval operations as he might wish to undertake upon the coast, he sent the rest away.

COMMENCEMENT OF THE MARCH INTO THE INTERIOR.

At length the day arrived for the expedition to commence its march. A small force was left be-

hind in a sort of fort which was built upon the shore. This force was designed to guard the four vessels, and also to protect a reserve of provisions which was to be left in the fort. The remainder of the troop, horsemen and footmen, with officers splendidly mounted and caparisoned, were marshaled in marching array, and when all was ready the commander gave the order to advance, and they began to move on. The train extended a long distance, comprising, as it did, an army of about a thousand men. Pioneers went before to open a way, and trains conveying artillery, provisions and baggage, followed in the rear. Among the other means which had been provided for the accomplishment of the objects of the expedition was an ample supply of blood-hounds, to hunt the Indians out of their swamps and hiding places, and also a company of twenty or thirty priests and monks, to assist in converting them to Christianity!

HARDSHIPS AND DIFFICULTIES OF THE MARCH.

It would require a volume to relate all the incidents and adventures which are described by the Spanish historians as having befallen the army of De Soto in the course of the summer. The advance of such a body of men through such a country, where, of course, the roads and bridges were all to

be made, was necessarily extremely slow. The Indians were everywhere hostile, so that the progress of the expedition was almost a continual battle rather than a march, and the hardships which the men endured were greatly aggravated by the difficulties of the way.

Of course, De Soto had no knowledge of the geography of the country, except what he could obtain by his scouts and explorers, or extort from his Indian captives. Some of these last he compelled to serve as guides. They pretended to guide him, but led him into morasses and impenetrable thickets. De Soto thought they did this purposely, and to teach the rest a lesson, he gave up the first set of guides to the blood-hounds, to be torn to pieces and devoured. The next set, he said, brought him to clearer land.

Sometimes a party of Indians, after being defeated in a battle, would be driven into a swamp or stagnant lake, where they would remain for hours in the water and slime, the Spaniards firing at them all the time, and summoning them to come out and surrender. A story is told of a party that remained in such a condition at one time from ten o'clock in the morning until night, half concealed in sedges and reeds, and shooting arrows all the time at their assailants, who stood surrounding

them, in the outskirts of the swamp, on the hard ground. In order to furnish a stand-point for the one who was to shoot, four of those who were in the water would put their shoulders together, and a fifth would climb up and stand upon them long enough to discharge the arrow, and then plunge down into the water again. For some reason or other the Spaniards wished to capture these men, and not to kill them, and so they only fired over their heads, and kept guard all around the lake, making signs to them continually to surrender. The Indians, however, refused absolutely to do so, and remained in the water until they were entirely exhausted. Their bodies became swollen to a frightful degree. The Spaniards at last, finding them entirely helpless, swam out and pulled them to the shore by the hair. In swimming out to them they took their swords with them in their mouths, to kill them if they should attempt to resist, but the poor wretches were so far gone that they could do nothing, and so were dragged in an almost lifeless condition to the shore.

INTENSE HOSTILITY OF THE INDIANS.

In this manner, and with a continual recurrence of scenes like these, the vast train of the army slowly advanced through the country, moving at

an average rate of only a few miles a day. De Soto took a course leading further into the interior than Narvaez had done, but the general direction of his march was the same, that is, toward the northward. He everywhere endeavored to open negotiations with the Indians, and to establish amicable relations with them, by friendly pretensions and specious promises ; but he found them, almost without exception, implacably hostile to him. They either refused at once to listen to any proposals for peace, or if they seemed sometimes for a moment inclined to accept them, it was only to gain some advantage by putting the Spaniards off their guard, or drawing them into an ambushade, or betraying them in some other way.

One of the chiefs to whom De Soto sent proposals replied in bitter reproaches in language like this :

“We have had experience of such people as you before. Others of your accursed race have come in years past to poison the peace and happiness of our country, and they have taught us what you are. You are a set of vagabonds, whose vocation it is to wander about from land to land, to rob the weak, to betray those that trust in you, to murder the defenseless in cold blood and without provoca-

tion. No. We want no peace and no friendship with such marauders as you. War—never ending and exterminating war is what you will meet with at our hands. I have sworn not to cease from the conflict so long as a single white man remains in the land. So come on! robbers and murderers as ye are! We are ready to meet you, either in open battle or by stratagem, ambuscade and midnight surprises, and every prisoner we make we will hang upon the trees along the roadside.”

The Indians acted everywhere in accordance with this spirit. So fierce was the resentment that had been awakened in their minds by the cruelties which had been committed by former parties of invaders, and which it was very evident that this new company was quite ready to repeat, that they hovered everywhere in ambuscade on the flanks of the army as it marched, concealing themselves in every thicket and on the banks of every stream, and shot down without mercy all that they could reach with their javelins or their arrows. They were not satisfied even with killing the hated intruders, for they dug up the bodies of the dead from the graves in which their comrades buried them, in order to cut them into quarters and hang the dismembered members on the trees.

PROGRESS OF THE EXPEDITION.

De Soto continued his march to the northward during the first summer, and made his winter quarters during the season of 1538-9 at a place which he called Anhayca, which is supposed to have been near where the city of Tallahassee now stands.* In the following spring he turned his course more decidedly into the interior of the country, taking a northeasterly direction, which at last brought him to the Savannah River, at a point quite distant from its mouth. His winter quarters here were at a place which he called Cofachiqui. He had come to this place in hopes of finding mines of gold and silver here, having received information to that effect from some of his Indian guides. When he arrived, however, he found no gold or silver, nor any indications that there were any known mines near. He remained in that region during the winter—this was the winter of 1539-40. In the spring of 1540 he put his troops in motion again, to continue his exploration. He now, however, turned his course and took a northwesterly direction, one which would lead him still further into the interior of the country.

* See map at the commencement of the next chapter.

Although De Soto had been greatly disappointed at not finding the gold and silver which he had hoped for on the banks of the Savannah, his prospects, on the whole, soon after this time began to grow somewhat brighter. The country became more open, and there were more frequent marks of cultivation. The native population, too, was now more numerous; the villages and towns—if towns they might be called—were more frequent, and the conveniences and comforts which they contained for the use of the troops occupying them were more considerable. In all his conflicts with the Indians he had been successful, and he had made a vast number of prisoners. These he had impressed into his service as laborers. He employed them to carry the baggage of his troops, and otherwise to aid in the labors attendant upon such a march. He had in the end several thousand of these captives in his train.

THE CAPTIVE PRINCESS.

Sometimes De Soto was received ostensibly in a friendly manner by the chiefs through whose country he passed, and in such cases he would often, in continuing his march, take the chief with him, nominally as a guest, but really as a prisoner. With the chief there were usually taken a large

number of the people of the tribe, who were employed as bearers of burdens in the manner above described; and one object of requiring the chief to join the army, too, in such cases was that his presence might make the men more contented, and that he might aid the commander in arranging and managing them.

At one time De Soto was received by a tribe whose chief was a female. The historians of this march, who usually described these scenes in very glowing colors, for effect at home, and gave every thing a grand and romantic name, called her a princess. Whatever may have been her proper title she evidently was possessed of great influence in her tribe, and De Soto determined to take her with him on his march to the westward. She dissembled her real feelings and made no objection to going. De Soto made arrangements to have her conveyed upon a sort of palanquin, or rather litter, made, in the Indian fashion, with poles and mats. Upon this vehicle she was conveyed by bearers, being attended also by a guard, nominally one of honor, but really of safety, to prevent her escape.

Things went on in this way very prosperously until the army reached the frontier of the princess' dominions, and then suddenly, watching her opportunity when her keepers were off their guard, she

leaped in an instant from the litter, and before the Spaniards who had her in charge could recover from their astonishment they saw her flying



ESCAPE OF THE CAPTIVE PRINCESS.

through the forest like a deer, followed by two or three faithful attendants whom she had contrived

to initiate into her plans. Pursuit was obviously useless, and the fugitive was never recovered.

TUSCALOOSA.

Marching slowly on in this way, in the summer of 1540 De Soto came to the river Coosa, the banks of which were very fertile and beautiful, and were inhabited by a very powerful tribe, the chief of which was named Tuscaloosa. De Soto had contrived, soon after entering the valley, to get Tuscaloosa into his hands, and he was now conducting him—half captive and half guest—together with other chieftains similarly situated, who were following in the train of the army, down the river toward Tuscaloosa's capital, a town called Mauvila.

APPROACH TO MAUVILA.

Mauvila, it seems, was quite a considerable town. It contained eight or ten large lodges, each of which was intended for the accommodation of several families. These lodges were quite substantially built, and were covered with thatch. The town was surrounded by an inclosure of stout palisades, consisting of strong posts set firmly into the ground, close together, with loopholes at regular intervals for arrows, and openings for gates on

the different sides. In fact, the place was the most important Indian stronghold in all that region.

Tuscaloosa and the other Indians who accompanied De Soto on his march down the river pretended to go with him willingly, and to be on perfectly friendly terms with him. They described to De Soto the situation and strength of the town, and though it was not large enough to allow of the whole army being quartered within the walls, the officers and their personal attendants, they said, together with the most valuable of the baggage, might be taken inside, while the main body of the troops might encamp near by.

This arrangement it was concluded to carry into effect, and the troops moved on, immense numbers of apparently friendly Indians accompanying and following them down the Coosa river to its junction with the Alabama river, and thence down the Alabama toward the town.*

A column of several thousand men is usually separated into several divisions, in advancing through a country not hostile, the divisions marching at some little distance from each other. In this case a large body of Indian burden-bearers,

* See map at the commencement of the next chapter.

loaded with provisions and military stores, and accompanied by a suitable escort, went on in advance, with orders to enter the town when they arrived, and store the baggage in the lodges within. At a short distance behind them came De Soto, with a body of one hundred foot and one hundred horse. Next came more Indians. The remainder of the army, consisting of about seven or eight hundred men, were left to come on by easy marches, as it was not necessary that they should reach the town until the baggage and the vanguard had been disposed of there, and a place of encampment chosen and made ready for the rest.

As the army went on in this way down the valley, and began to draw near the town, De Soto observed certain mysterious movements among the Indians, which excited his suspicions in some degree, but he did not pay much attention to them. Perhaps, situated as he was, there was nothing that he could do effectually to guard against treachery, if treachery were intended. He marched on at the head of his two hundred men until he reached the gates of the town. The Indian bearers had arrived before, and all the baggage had been taken in. As he advanced toward the gates every thing seemed quiet, and he supposed that all was well.

TERRIBLE REVERSE AT MAUVILA.

As soon as De Soto and his troops arrived, the horsemen dismounted, unsaddled the horses, and tied them to the trees. De Soto and his immediate attendants entered the town. The infantry stacked their arms, and the soldiers began to wander about the place, examining the fortifications and such other objects as attracted their attention, when suddenly, at the moment when the whole body were most completely off their guard, there arose one wild and unearthly yell, both from within and without the town, and from the margin of the woods environing it, and the whole body of Indians, who had been so quiet and apparently so harmless a moment before, became transformed in an instant to ferocious combatants, all in a perfect frenzy of rage. Men armed with arrows and javelins seemed to spring up out of the ground. Multitudes poured in from the neighboring thickets, and multitudes more sprang up from hiding places within the town, where they had lain concealed. The Spaniards rushed to their horses and to their arms. Before they could get possession of them, however, forty of the horses were killed, and also great numbers of the men.

It would be impossible to describe the scene of

terror, confusion, and slaughter which followed. De Soto contrived to get out of the town and to place himself at the head of his men, whom he at length succeeded in marshaling into some sort of array, and a long and bloody battle ensued. In the midst of it the town was set on fire. The roofs being covered with thatch, the flames spread with surprising rapidity, and great quantities of very valuable baggage were consumed. In the end, however, after a combat of nine hours, the Indians were driven away, and the Spaniards were left in possession of the ground, though not, it was said, until after twenty-five hundred of the Indians, and among them Tuscaloosa himself, had been slain.'

HORRIBLE CONDITION OF THE ARMY AFTER THE BATTLE

Although De Soto and his troops had thus really gained the victory, and had driven their foes from the ground, still their own situation after the battle was over was perfectly horrible. The thickets in every direction around them were filled with the bodies of dead Indians, which there were no means of burying. Their own men were worn out by the fight. Many of them were killed, and a very large number that had not been killed had been pierced with arrows and javelins, and were now lying upon the ground in agony, filling the air

with heart-rending cries and earnest entreaties for succor. It was reckoned that there were seventeen hundred spear and arrow wounds to be dressed, and there were scarcely any persons qualified to dress them. The men who remained unhurt could have no rest, but were obliged to engage at once in labors of the most urgent necessity. Some were set to work at building huts with branches of trees, to furnish shelter for the wounded men. Others were employed in cutting up the horses that had been killed, to preserve the flesh for food. Others tore up their shirts to make lint, and others cut open the bodies of the dead Indians to obtain from them such parts as would yield fat for making an ointment, to be employed in dressing the wounds. Horrible as this resource was, no other remained, for all the medical stores, as well as every thing else that was valuable, had been destroyed by the fire.

In a word, there was perhaps never an army which was left after a victory in a more dreadful situation than they.

A week was spent in meeting the immediate and urgent demands arising out of the necessities of the occasion, and when at length some degree of order was restored, and the distress and terror of the scene were somewhat abated, so that the com-

mander could have time to reflect upon the condition in which he was placed, he soon found that the situation and prospects of the expedition were now entirely changed. Not only had his own army become greatly disorganized, but the Indians all over the country, who had been apparently friendly for some time previous, had now, he found, assumed universally an attitude of open war. They were beginning to form grand preparations for a combined attack upon him. He had lost almost all his baggage. The stores of goods which he had brought for trading with the Indians, and nearly all the conveniences and comforts provided for the use of the army, had been destroyed. Many of the soldiers had lost every thing except the clothes which they were wearing when the attack took place. They were also all beginning to feel greatly disheartened and discouraged, and even to form conspiracies for preventing De Soto from proceeding any further. It was folly, under such circumstances, they said, to attempt to go on. The only thing that remained for them to do was to make the best of their way to the shore, and there endeavor to find some means of escaping by sea. This they determined should be done, and they began secretly to concert together measures for carrying their determination into effect.

DE SOTO'S DETERMINATION.

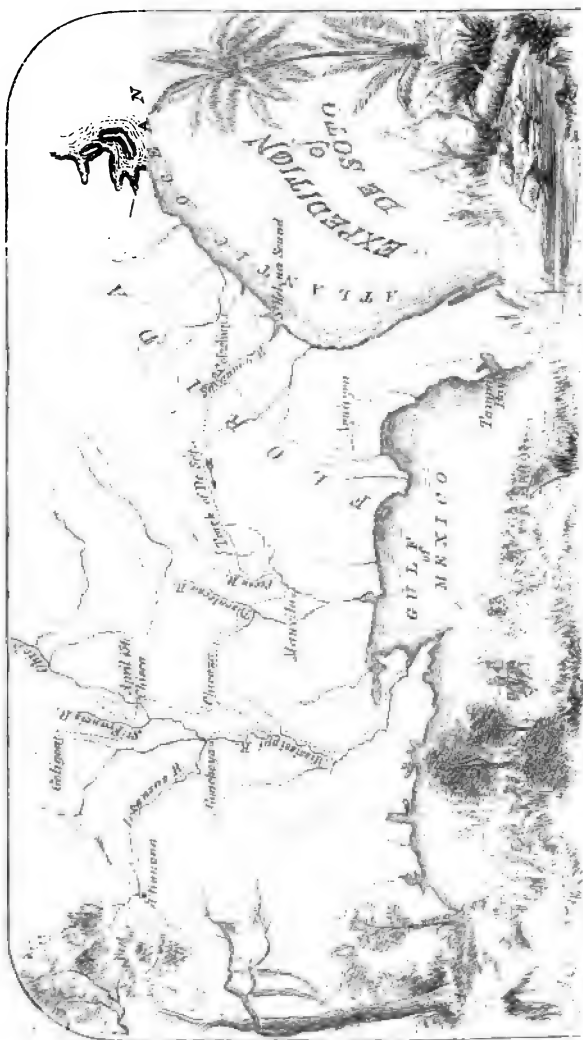
De Soto received some intimations of the existence of this mutinous spirit among his men, and to ascertain whether the report which was brought to him was true, he disguised himself one night and walked through the camp, listening to the conversation which he heard. His suspicions were fully confirmed. He overheard a conversation in the tent of the treasurer and paymaster of the army—an officer of high rank and influence—which convinced him that unless he was prepared to give up the further prosecution of the enterprise, he must lose no time in moving on into the interior, and away from the vicinity of the shore. And inasmuch as, notwithstanding the severe blow that he had received, his own indomitable spirit was not yet broken, he determined to march to the northward without any delay.

THE GREATEST OF THE LOSSES FROM THE FIRE.

It is a very curious circumstance that the Spanish historians who have recorded these events say that the loss which the army felt more seriously than all the rest, in this destruction of their stores and effects at Mauvila, was that of a small supply of wheat flour and of wine, which the priests had brought with them for celebrating the Lord's Sup-

per in the Mass. These precious supplies were packed with the most valuable part of the baggage, and were in the town when the fire broke out, and so were consumed. Great was the distress of the priests—and also of the whole army, if we may believe what the historians say—at this loss, which they considered the most serious of all the terrible results of the calamity. The priests held a solemn consultation to determine whether the use of a bread made of *maize*, for the holy communion, would be allowable in an emergency like this; but after mature deliberation they decided that it would not be. Nor had they any substitute for the wine. All the holy sacerdotal garments, too, in which the priests were accustomed to officiate at the altar, had been consumed.

The consequence was that from this time, on Sundays and on other days, when mass should have been said, the army was assembled as usual, and the service was read, with all the prayers, litanies, chantings, incense burnings, and other ceremonies belonging to it, but with the omission of the part relating to the bread and wine. They called the service thus performed a *dry* mass. For sacerdotal garments the priests made imitations of those that were lost as well as they could, from deer skins which they procured of the Indians.





CHAPTER VIII.

DISCOVERY OF THE MISSISSIPPI RIVER.

DETERMINATION OF DE SOTO TO PROCEED.

It was toward the latter part of November, 1540, that De Soto set out again upon his march, after the battle of Mauvila. He took a northerly direction, with a view of penetrating further into the interior of the country. His hope and expectation were to find some pleasant and fertile region where he could establish a colony, in case he should finally fail of discovering mines of gold and silver, or any native population possessed of cities and towns worth conquering and retaining. His hopes, however, after all, were, it seems, not very sanguine. Indeed, it was rather by the influence of pride, forbidding him to go back, than by that of hope, encouraging him to proceed, that his resolution was sustained. He was very deeply chagrined at the disappointments and mortifications which had befallen him, and he became moody, discontented, and irritable. Still he was determined not to yield.

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PASSAGE OF THE TUSCALOOSA RIVER.

The army moved on by slow marches six days. At the end of that time the vanguard approached a village on the bank of a river, where they saw fifteen hundred men drawn up ready to oppose their passage. De Soto sent forward a messenger to propose peace and friendship. The Indians replied that they would make no peace with him on any terms. On the contrary, they desired nothing but a war of fire and blood.

De Soto brought up his troops into battle array and attacked the Indians. After a short resistance they retreated to the bank of the river, and paddled across the stream in canoes which they had previously placed there ready for the purpose. As soon as they had reached the opposite shore they established themselves there at different stations up and down the bank, ready apparently to resist any attempt that the invaders might make to pass over.

De Soto sent a body of men into the woods at some distance from the river, where their operations could not be observed by the Indians on the other side, and set them at work there, making two very large flat-bottomed boats, for the use of the army in crossing the river. It required a fort-

night to finish the boats. When they were completed two great trucks were made on which to draw them to the water, and a road was opened. The boats were hauled to the bank of the stream, on these trucks, in the night. They were very heavy, and a large number of mules and horses were required to draw them, the men, too, pushing behind. Each boat was large enough to carry ten mounted horsemen and forty foot soldiers.

The horsemen went on board the boats mounted, in order that they might be ready to ride on shore and rush forward into battle without an instant's delay, if there should be occasion, and the foot soldiers were all completely armed.

Notwithstanding all their precautions for keeping these operations secret, their movements were observed by the Indians, and when the two boats reached the bank and the troops disembarked, they found a large force ready to receive them. The troops landed amid a shower of arrows, but they advanced boldly and drove the Indians away. The boats immediately returned for more troops. The party that had landed were thus very soon reinforced, so that the Indians retreated, and before nightfall not one was to be seen.

The Spaniards then took the two boats to pieces in order to recover the nails which had been used

in constructing them, and immediately resumed their march.

JOHN ORTIZ AS AN INTERPRETER.

A curious incident occurred not long after this which illustrates the ideas that Ortiz entertained in respect to his duty as an interpreter. The place where it occurred was at a certain Indian village named Chicaza. The army arrived here about the middle of December, and as the season was so far advanced and the weather was very cold, and as the natives, moreover, in that region, seemed more than usually friendly, De Soto determined to make that place his winter quarters. Of course, while he remained it was very important to retain, as far as possible, the good-will of the Indians, and he accordingly gave very strict orders to all the troops that no injury should be done to any of the natives of the country under any pretext whatever.

Notwithstanding these orders, four of the soldiers went one day to the lodge of a chief who lived about four miles from the camp, and robbed the family of some furs and mantles. The Indians were greatly enraged at this, and those living near began to remove to a greater distance.

As soon as De Soto learned these facts he

caused the soldiers to be brought before him, and sentenced two of them—the ringleaders in the affair—to be beheaded.

Now, for some reason or other, a strong desire to save the life of one of these men soon manifested itself in the army. The name of this man was Francesco Orsorio. He was, perhaps, a general favorite among his comrades, or possibly there may have been some extenuating circumstances in his case, which they thought palliated his crime. At any rate, a strong sympathy was felt for him, and the priests and the officers of the army went to De Soto and begged him to mitigate the sentence, at least so far as to spare Orsorio's life.

But De Soto was inexorable. The men must die, he said, and he ordered them to be taken out into the open ground before the encampment to be beheaded.

While the preparations for the execution were going on a deputation of Indians arrived from the chief who had been robbed, to make complaint to the commander, and to demand that the men should be punished. Ortiz was called in to interpret what these messengers had to say. As he was going in several officers of rank, who were interested in saving Orsorio's life, intercepted him and directed him what to do. He went in, and

when the Indians made—in their own language, of course—the statement and complaint which had been intrusted to them by the chief, and De Soto turned to Ortiz to ask him to interpret the message, Ortiz replied that the meaning of what the messengers had said was, that the chief did not wish to have the men punished, that they had done no serious injury, and that he should take it as a favor if De Soto would pardon them and set them at liberty.

De Soto hearing this determined to pardon the men, and he sent out orders that the execution should be stayed. At the same time he directed Ortiz to say to the messengers that although he had intended to behead the men, still, since the chief himself interceded for them, he would pardon them.

This message Ortiz falsified, too, as he did the other. He told the messengers that De Soto said that the culprits were already in prison, and that they should be punished in the severest manner for their crime, so as to make an example of them to the whole Spanish army.

DE SOTO UNHORSED IN BATTLE.

Hostilities afterward broke out between the Spaniards and this tribe, and in the course of a

battle which took place De Soto was for a few moments in a situation of the most imminent danger, having been unhorsed in the middle of the fight. He was in the act of raising his lance to strike at an Indian who was to the left of him, and in doing so he brought his weight strongly upon the right stirrup, in order to give greater force to the blow, and in consequence of this the saddle turned—the girth not having been properly secured. De Soto fell to the ground, and if other men, both horsemen and footmen, had not rushed at once to the spot, he would have been instantly killed. The men, however, who came up kept the Indians at bay until the fallen man was raised from the ground, and the saddle replaced and secured. De Soto immediately leaped upon the horse's back and rode on into the fight again.

THE ONLY WOMAN IN THE ARMY.

There was but a single European woman connected with De Soto's expedition. She was the wife of a soldier, and had come out with her husband from Spain. She lost her life about this time, endeavoring to save her pearls. The Indians, though they had very little gold or silver, possessed a considerable number of pearls of greater or less value, such as are produced in the rivers of

that part of the country. The soldier's wife had obtained some of these pearls, and she ran back into a burning house belonging to a village which the Indians had set on fire in the night, in order to save them. She forced her way into the house, but in attempting to come out she was arrested by the smoke and flames, and was afterward found burned to death.

SINGLE COMBAT.

In one of the battles fought by the army in the course of this season an occurrence took place which was more like the deeds of chivalry performed by French and English knights among the castles of Normandy, or between the Christians and the Saracens in the crusades, than like an incident of Indian warfare. The two armies were on opposite sides of a small river, each defying the other, when an Indian, separating himself from his companions, went down to the bank of the river, armed with his bow and arrow, and there, shouting out to the Spaniards on the other side, he contrived, partly by words and partly by signs, to signify that he challenged any one of them to take a bow and arrow too, and come down to the shore and fight him at single combat,—shooting across the stream. One of the soldiers, hearing this, a

man named Juan de Salinas, declared that he would accept the challenge, and he accordingly prepared to leave the thicket, where he had taken refuge with several of his companions, to go down the bank. One of his companions offered to go with him to hold a shield over him while he was shooting. But Salinas said he would take no advantage. He preferred to go alone. So he walked down to the brink of the stream, and took his stand opposite the Indian. He was armed with a cross-bow, a weapon which was much in use in European armies in those days.

Both the Spaniard and the Indian shot at the same moment, and the two arrows passed each other in crossing the stream. The Spaniard's shaft struck the Indian in the breast. The poor man would have fallen had it not been that the other Indians who were standing by ran up at the instant, supported him, and bore him away. The Indian's arrow struck the Spaniard in the neck, and passing through just under the skin, it remained in the wound, crossing the neck. Salinas walked back to his companions in the thicket, bearing the arrow still in his neck, and exhibiting it triumphantly, to show how lightly he had himself been touched, while his antagonist had been mortally wounded.

LANGUAGE OF SIGNS.

The Indians often displayed great ingenuity in conveying their meaning by signs, whether they wished to make offers of peace, or to express hostility and defiance. On one occasion, when they were separated from the Spaniards by a river, but yet were in full view of them, they built a very large fire, and then taking one of their companions they first made motions as if knocking him on the head. He pretended to fall, as if stunned. Four of the others then took him up by his arms and legs, and swung him to and fro, as if they were going to throw him into the fire—the others beckoning to the Spaniards and pointing to the man while they were swinging him, to signify that that was the way they intended to serve the Spaniards themselves whenever they should get them into their power.

ARRIVAL ON THE BANKS OF THE MISSISSIPPI.

It was in the month of April, 1541, that the expedition came in sight of the Mississippi. At the place where they arrived on the bank there was a town called Chisca. At one end of the town was the residence of the chief. It was built upon a high artificial mound, and the only way of access to

it was by a sort of ladder. As soon as the army came in sight of the town, those in the van rushed forward into it in confusion, and began taking possession of every thing they saw. They made prisoners of all the Indians that they could seize, and began pillaging the houses.

The chief who ruled over the tribe was old and infirm, and he was at this time lying ill in his bed. But hearing the uproar in the village, he aroused himself and insisted on going forth to repel the invaders. But the women and the other attendants around him held him back. They told him that the enemy who had come upon them was a body of very large and powerful men, such as had never been seen before, and that it was useless to attempt to drive them back by force. It would be far better, they said, to pretend friendship for them for a little time, until the chief could send around to the neighboring country and obtain help from other tribes.

By this time, too, De Soto had arrived, and had succeeded in restoring some degree of order in the town. Finally a sort of treaty was made by which the chieftain agreed to allow De Soto to remain in his country in peace, in order to rest and refresh his men, on condition that the prisoners and the

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pillage which the soldiers had taken should be restored.

The prisoners and the pillage were accordingly surrendered, and De Soto remained at peace in this encampment for six days.

ASPECT OF THE RIVER.

The river, at the point where De Soto first came upon it, was very wide, and the torrent of water which was rushing along in the bed of it was so great and rapid that De Soto was filled with astonishment at the magnificence of the spectacle. The water was extremely turbid, too, and was filled with floating trees and all sorts of rubbish. De Soto named the stream the Great River, or, as expressed in the Spanish language, the Rio Grande. Well might he give it that name, for it was altogether the greatest river that civilized man had at that time ever seen.

The banks were so steep and high that it was almost impossible to descend to the water. De Soto, surrounded by his officers and by the principal persons in the army, stood upon the margin of the bank, and as they looked down upon the boiling and surging torrent that was sweeping so majestically by, they were filled with emotions of wonder and delight.

SEARCH FOR A CROSSING PLACE.

De Soto wished to continue his march, but the work of transporting such an army as his across the river, with all the horses, stores and baggage, was, of course, likely to be an undertaking of great difficulty. After remaining for a week where he was, to rest and refresh his men, he put the expedition in motion again, intending to march along the bank of the river, in an ascending direction, until he should find a place where it would be practicable to cross it.

He went on in this way, following the windings of the river for many days, but finding the bank so steep every where that it would be impossible to get boats down to the water for conveying the army across. At length he came out to an open plain near the river, where there was an excellent place for an encampment, with a forest of good timber near for building boats, and a practicable slope from the bank to the water. Here De Soto halted, and the work of building boats was commenced.

A FLEET OF CANOES.

One day during the time that the Spaniards remained at this encampment waiting for the boats to be built, they saw a fleet of nearly two hundred

canoes coming down the river. The canoes were filled with armed Indians, their skins painted in a frightful fashion, and their heads and various other parts of their bodies adorned with feathers, beads, porcupine quills, and many other barbaric decorations. They carried shields made of buffalo hides, stretched upon frames of suitable size and form. Some of the men in each boat stood ready with these shields to shelter the men who paddled, while others occupied commanding positions in the bow and in the stern of the boat, armed with bows and arrows.

There were some canoes which were conspicuous among the rest on account of their greater size and more fanciful decorations. These larger boats had awnings, also, to shelter the persons occupying them. They were the canoes of the Cazique, as the Spaniards called him, and of his principal officers and attendants.

On hearing of the approach of these canoes De Soto, attended by his principal officers, came down to the shore. The canoes continued to advance until they came near enough to the shore to open a parley. The Cazique, standing up in his canoe, addressed De Soto, saying that he had come to make a treaty of friendship with him, and to offer his assistance in case anything that he could do

would be of service to the strangers. He had heard, he said, that the commander of the expedition was the most powerful prince and warrior in the whole earth, and he came accordingly to express his satisfaction at being visited in his dominions by a personage so renowned.

De Soto suspected that these fine words were only a mask to cover and conceal some treacherous design. He, however, gave the Cazique a polite reply, speaking, of course, as the Cazique had done, through interpreters, and invited him to come on shore that they might converse with each other more conveniently. The Cazique made no direct answer to this proposal, but instead of coming on shore himself he sent forward three of his canoes, with presents, in token of friendship. The presents consisted of fruit and a kind of bread made of the pulp of the persimmon, which is a species of plum.

De Soto again invited the chief to land, but he still kept off from the shore, and De Soto fearing that the force in the canoes might make an attack upon him, ordered his men to be marshaled in order of battle. The Indians seeing this were alarmed, and turning their canoes began to paddle away. The Spaniards sent a shower of arrows from their crossbows after them. Five or six of

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the Indians were killed and many more were wounded. The canoes continued their retreat in good order, the men with the shields covering and protecting those who paddled.

The act of firing upon the Indians under these circumstances would seem to be wholly unprovoked and unjustifiable. Probably De Soto was convinced that the intentions of his visitors were really hostile, and that his best policy was to strike terror into them by acting decisively at the outset.

The canoes remained in the neighborhood for some days after this and seemed to be intending to make an attack, but they finally went away and left the Spaniards to go on with their boat building in peace.

CROSSING THE MISSISSIPPI.

In about three weeks the boats were completed. There were four of them. They were built in the most solid and substantial manner, being flat-bottomed in form and of very large size.

The building of the boats was kept secret as much as possible, in order to prevent the Indians from discovering the design of the expedition to cross the river. When the boats were ready they were drawn to the bank of the river and launched,

in the night. The passage of the troops also was to be commenced in the night, so that, if possible, a considerable force might be transported and established on the opposite bank before the Indians could be apprised of their coming, and thus assemble to oppose them.

The boats were manned and the troops embarked on board of them about three hours before day. Four horsemen went in each boat, all mounted, and ready to leap their horses out upon the beach the instant that the boats should touch the ground. The party had, of course, no means of knowing whether they would find an enemy at the landing or not.

The distance was so great across the river—for the stream was there about a mile and a half wide—that even in the day time a man could scarcely be discerned on the opposite bank. In the night the bank itself could not be seen, so that as the boats left the shore and went out over the surface of the water the men could see nothing before them but darkness and gloom, while all around them the water was sweeping wildly by in vast whirlpools and boiling surges, threatening to bear them irresistibly away, with the floating trees and matted masses of drift wood which it had already subjected to its will.

and they had exhausted all their prayers and incantations without any effect.

De Soto determined to accede to this request. He caused the largest tree that could be found in the forest to be felled, and from it the carpenter made a cross of immense size. The Spaniards set up this cross upon an elevation on the bank of a small river, and performed a solemn mass around it in the presence of a concourse, it was said, of fifteen or twenty thousand savages, who assembled on the opposite side of the river to watch the proceedings. A grand procession was formed, consisting of the whole army, except a small guard left to protect the camp. This procession, headed by the priests, moved round the mound on which the cross was erected in a slow and solemn step, chanting the litany as they marched, and singing hymns. When the ring was formed the whole procession fell upon their knees, and prayers were offered by the priests for rain. The service was connected with various other imposing ceremonies, such as are prescribed by the Catholic ritual.

The Indians, it is said, were greatly impressed by the solemnity of this spectacle, and the narrator of these occurrences adds that on the same night the whole country was refreshed with a copious shower.

INCIDENTS OF THE MARCH.

The expedition continued after this to ascend the river for some time, and met with a great variety of incidents and adventures, which cannot here be particularly described. They found the land extremely fertile and the scenery charming. The country was, moreover, quite populous, being occupied by many different tribes, some of which possessed towns of considerable size and many fields of maize. With some of these tribes De Soto made treaties of peace and friendship. Against others he made war. Sometimes he would form a league with one chieftain to fight with him against some other one, his rival and enemy. He very often received urgent requests to form alliances of this kind.

In one case of this kind two young and beautiful wives of a certain chieftain had been taken captive, and they remained for some time in the hands of the enemy. Afterward, through De Soto's influence, they were restored. But the chief, their husband, when they were brought back, offered them as a present to De Soto. De Soto declined to receive them. Then the chief asked him to give them to some of his officers or soldiers, for, according to the customs of the Indians, he could not re-

ceive into his household again wives who had once been held as captives by his enemy.

Accordingly De Soto, knowing, as it was said, how cruelly women were sometimes treated in cases like this, by their former friends, received the two discarded wives, and allowed them to go on with the expedition, among the other followers of the camp. Their names were Macanoche and Mokifa.

DE SOTO BEGINS TO BE DISCOURAGED.

Notwithstanding the general fertility and beauty of the country, De Soto was more and more dissatisfied the further he proceeded, both with the results which he had thus far attained and with his prospects for the future. Beauty and fertility were not what he was seeking. His object was gold, and there was no gold to be found. He went on toward the northward as far as to a certain town named Coligoa, and there, thinking it useless to proceed any further in that direction, he concluded to turn his course, and to journey for a while toward the south and west. He went on in this way, meeting with a great variety of adventures, which cannot be here described, until at last he reached a place called Utianqua, on the Arkansas river. The Indians had informed him that there.

was a great lake at this place, which he hoped ~~be~~ would prove an arm of the sea; for he was now ~~w~~ fast coming to the conclusion that the time was ~~as~~ drawing near, if it had not already arrived, when ~~he~~ he must begin to think of the means of withdraw—~~w~~ing from the country.

He found no arm of the sea at Utianqua, and ~~and~~ not even the promised lake. But the summer ~~and~~ autumn were now well nigh gone, and so he made ~~de~~ a friendly arrangement with the tribe that occupied ~~ed~~ the country in that region, and concluded to spend ~~and~~ the winter there. He set his men at work, with ~~with~~ the help of their Indian slaves, to build a fort ~~and~~ village of huts, and there the army remained ~~unt~~il spring.

During the winter De Soto had full time to ~~re~~flect upon his position. His hopes of finding a country rich either in gold and silver, or in other ~~er~~ wealth, which he could conquer and possess, had ~~had~~ well nigh faded away. He had lost nearly half ~~his~~ troops, so great had been the hardships and sufferings of various kinds to which they had been exposed. His horses had nearly all perished from fatigue, or been killed and eaten for food. His interpreter, Ortiz, was dead, and he found infinite difficulty in communicating with the new tribes of Indians that he now met with on his way. He had

brought on with him, it is true, persons to serve as interpreters from all the different provinces through which he had passed, but the only way of understanding the natives of the country where he was then sojourning was by having what they said translated in succession from one of these interpreters to another, back through all the dialects intervening between the Arkansas river and Tampa bay. The questions asked and the answers returned had sometimes to pass in this manner through eight or ten different languages or dialects before De Soto could obtain the information that he desired, and then the purport of what was said was often so changed and perverted by mistakes and mistranslations that it was almost impossible to procure any intelligence on which he could rely.

DETERMINATION TO TURN TOWARD THE SEA.

Accordingly, when the spring opened, he determined to make the best of his way toward the sea. This was in the spring of 1542. He broke up his camp and set out upon his march, intending to go down the Arkansas river to the Mississippi, and then to follow that river to the Gulf of Mexico, into which he supposed it must empty. What the distance was he had no idea, but he knew well that by going down the river he must sooner or later

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come to the mouth of it on the shore of the sea, and there, if he could not build vessels sufficient for the conveyance of the whole expedition, he could at least build one, and by this means communicate with Cuba, and thus obtain any assistance that he might desire.

The army moved slowly on, but the difficulties and hardships which they encountered seemed now to increase at every step. They set out too early in the spring, and their march was impeded by snow storms and cold rains, which made every thing wet and cheerless, and greatly increased the fatigue and suffering of the men. The Indians, too, became more and more hostile, and they harassed the army exceedingly on their march. There was no alternative, however, but to press on. The army, therefore, continued to advance, but the strength and spirits of the commander were failing sensibly every day.

SICKNESS AND DEATH OF DE SOTO.

At length the expedition reached the Mississippi, at an Indian town named Guachoya, but here new difficulties and embarrassments awaited them. The Indians were extremely hostile. There was great difficulty in crossing the river. De Soto himself, was now seriously ill. He was convinced that

he could proceed no further. He ordered his men to encamp and to fortify their position, for they were surrounded by hordes of hostile Indians that were thirsting for their blood. Double guards were set. The horses were kept caparisoned, and the soldiers slept upon their arms. The anxiety necessarily attendant on this state of things increased De Soto's malady. He fell into a burning fever, and was soon fully convinced that his end was drawing near.

He accordingly called the officers of the army to his couch and formally appointed one of his generals, named Luis de Moscoso de Alvarado, as his successor in the command of the army, and he charged all the others to submit to his authority, and to sustain him in the exercise of it by every means in their power. He also caused the soldiers to be called in around him, in companies of twenty and thirty at a time, and in this manner gave them his dying injunctions and bade them farewell.

Having thus done all in his power to secure the safety and welfare of the army after his death, De Soto made his will. So exhausted were the stores of the army at this time that only a very small piece of paper could be found for the purpose, and the will was written in very few words, and with

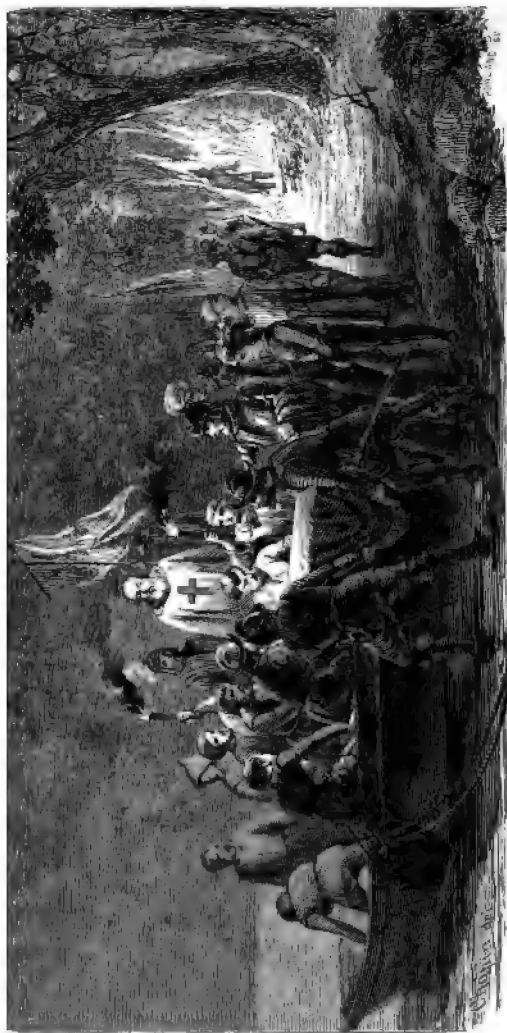
many omissions and abridgements. When the will was completed the priests came in, and the dying man confessed his sins and received absolution.

From this time his vital powers began to ebb away very rapidly, and after some days of continued fever and delirium he died.

THE BURIAL OF THE BODY.

Moscoso and the other officers were at first somewhat perplexed to know what to do in respect to the disposal to be made of the body. They feared that wherever they might bury it the Indians would disinter it, in order to insult and triumph over the remains. They accordingly made arrangements for a very secret burial in a place on the plain near the camp, setting a guard to prevent any Indians having access to the place while they were digging the grave and interring the body. In order the better to deceive the Indians, they pretended that the governor, as they called him, was better, and was likely to recover; and they made a display of public rejoicings in the camp to celebrate his convalescence. They also resorted to every possible means for obliterating all marks upon the surface of the ground where the grave had been made.

They soon found, however, that the Indians had



BURIAL OF DE SOTO.

not been deceived. It was ascertained that they knew that the governor was dead, and it was suspected that in some way or other they had discovered the place where he had been buried. The Spaniards determined, therefore, to adopt another plan for disposing of the body, by means of which they hoped to make it sure that it could never be disturbed. This was to sink it in the middle of the river.

So they felled a tree in the forest—a species of oak, the wood of which is so heavy that it will sink, and made a massive coffin of it, by cutting off a portion of the trunk of suitable length, and hollowing out a cavity in it large enough to contain the body. They were obliged to resort to some such method as this for sinking the body, for the soil was entirely alluvial there, and no stones were to be found. When their rude sarcophagus was finished they disinterred the body, and after placing it in the log they covered it by planks of the same material, nailed firmly on. They then bore the body thus inclosed down to the bank of the river by night, and there, with appropriate ceremonies, they put it on board a boat, rowed out into the middle of the stream, and launched it into the water among the turbid whirlpools that were surging by.

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The river at the place where the coffin sank was reported to be more than a hundred feet deep. Two officers had gone out the day before, under pretense of fishing, to sound the depth of the water in different places, in order that the body might be sunk in the very center of the channel.

CONDITION OF THE ARMY AFTER THE DEATH OF DE SOTO.

The officers and soldiers of the army were, after all, not really much grieved at the death of their commander. They were heartily tired of the country and wished to escape from it. And yet some of the officers were unwilling to give up the enterprise, without making some further efforts to carry out De Soto's plans. This difference of opinion led to discussions and debates, and in some cases to insubordination. One conspicuous case of desertion occurred, though it might have been supposed that desertion, especially on the part of the officers, would not be one of the dangers to which an army, under such circumstances as these, would be exposed.

CASE OF A DESERTER.

The desertion occurred soon after the army resumed its march, subsequent to the death of De Soto, and the case illustrates curiously enough the

relations which sometimes subsisted between the Spaniards and the Indian chieftains. The name of the officer was Diego de Guzman. He was a dissipated man, it seems, and a great gambler. He had also in his keeping a beautiful Indian girl, the daughter of a chieftain who lived at some distance from the place where the army was now encamped.

One day this man was missed from the camp, and on making inquiry for him it was ascertained that he had been gambling some days before and had lost everything he possessed. He first played away his money, then his arms, then a fine black horse which he rode, and, last of all, he staked the Indian girl. He lost her too.

He surrendered everything at once to the winner except the girl; but as for her he asked the winner to allow him to retain her in his own hands for a few days, at the expiration of which time he promised to deliver her. To this the winner consented, and since that time Guzman had not been seen or heard of.

It was generally supposed that he had abandoned the expedition, being ashamed of his gambling, and vexed with the losses which he had sustained; and being, moreover, very probably deeply in love with his Indian girl. This supposition was found,

after due inquiry, to be correct. It was reported from good authority that he had gone with the girl to her father's village, and that he was living with her there. But in order to ascertain positively that he had really gone there of his own accord, and was not in any way under restraint in remaining, it was determined to send him a letter.

Accordingly, the commander of the expedition requested another officer, the one who had been Guzman's most particular friend, to write to him, inquiring how it was with him, and inviting him earnestly to return to the camp, promising him at the same time that if he would do so his horse and his arms should be returned to him. This letter was sent by an Indian. The messenger was gone three days. He brought back only a verbal answer, for Guzman, in his new home, had no convenient means of writing. In order, however, to authenticate his answer and to prove to his friend that the letter had really been delivered to him, he wrote his name upon a blank space at the foot of it with a piece of charcoal, and sent it back.

The Indian on his return brought the letter thus marked, and with it a message from Guzman, to the effect that he was entirely at liberty, but that he was contented and happy where he was, and did not intend to return.

One more effort was subsequently made to induce Guzman to return to the camp, but he refused to do so. He was then abandoned to his fate, and was never heard of more.

END OF THE EXPEDITION.

After meeting with various incidents and adventures, which cannot here be related, the expedition at length came unanimously to the conclusion that it was best to retire from the country. They journeyed on until they came to a favorable place upon the Mississippi, where they built vessels, and embarking on board of them, followed the river down to its mouth, and then undertook to coast along the shore of the sea, in the direction which they supposed led to the nearest Spanish settlements. They met with a great number and variety of disasters, as might have been expected, in this desperate navigation. They were wrecked upon reefs, they were attacked by the natives, they were dispersed and driven to sea by gales of wind. At last, however, some remnants of the expedition succeeded in making good their escape, and after various wanderings, found their way home to Spain.

CHAPTER IX.

THE RIVER ST. LAWRENCE.

THE THREE CHIEF RIVERS OF NORTH AMERICA.

NEXT to the Mississippi—including under that designation the whole fluvial system of which the Mississippi proper is the central and connecting trunk—the two most important rivers of the North American continent, considered both in respect to their present commercial importance and to the influence which they have exerted upon the history of the country, by the facilities afforded by them, at a very early period, for penetrating into the interior of the continent, are the St. Lawrence and the Hudson. The circumstances under which these rivers were first discovered and explored are very curious and interesting. The St. Lawrence was first entered by a French navigator—the Hudson by an English one.

JAMES CARTIER.

The name of the navigator who discovered and

first ascended the St. Lawrence was James Cartier.* He made several voyages in the course of his life to the coasts of Newfoundland and into the neighboring seas. The one from which the most important results were obtained took place in the year 1535—more than thirty years after Cabot's general exploration of the coast.

SAILING OF THE EXPEDITION.

The expedition was fitted out from the port of St. Malo, in France. As was usual in the case of such maritime enterprises in those times, a grand religious ceremony was observed a few days before the time of sailing. This service was held in the cathedral of St. Malo. In obedience to the orders of the commander the whole company assembled in the choir of the cathedral, where all, after confessing their sins and receiving absolution, were blessed by the bishop, who stood before the altar dressed in his pontifical robes, and surrounded by other priests who were present to assist in the services. A large concourse of spectators, assembled in the nave and aisles and ambulatory of the cathedral, witnessed the ceremony.

This ceremony took place on Sunday. On the

Wednesday following, the expedition sailed. It consisted of three ships, which were named respectively the Great Hermina, the Little Hermina, and the Hermerillon. These vessels were called ships, but the largest was only of one hundred and twenty tons burden, while the smallest was only a boat of forty tons. It is astonishing that men could be found willing to trust themselves in embarkations of this kind on voyages so distant, and leading into such stormy and icy seas.

THE VOYAGE.

The voyage was an extremely tempestuous one. The ships experienced a favorable wind for one day after leaving the port, and then a succession of gales and storms set in, which continued for more than a month, during which time they were so tossed about, and were buffeted by the winds and waves so severely, that they all narrowly escaped destruction. As they approached the American coast, too, the sea, as is usual in those latitudes, was covered with fogs and scudding mists, which made it impossible to see the way. In such a state of weather it is dangerous for vessels to attempt to keep near each other, for fear of collision; and if they separate at all they soon lose sight of each other in the fog, and then the chance

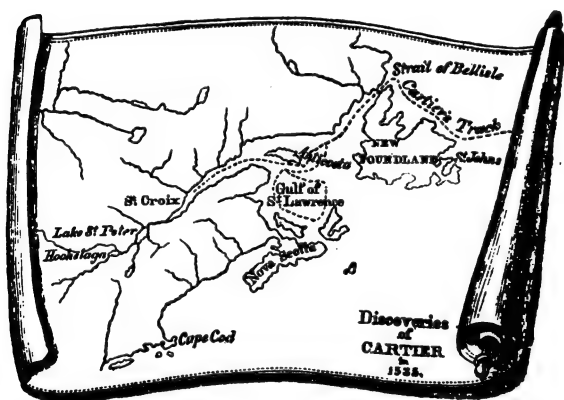
is very small of their coming together again. The vessels of Cartier's squadron were dispersed in this manner before they reached the American shores, but such an accident had been anticipated, and a place of rendezvous had been appointed, where they all safely met at the end of the voyage. This place of rendezvous was a small bay called the Bay of Castles, at the entrance of the strait of Bellisle. The flag-ship of the squadron, the Great Hermina, reached the place of rendezvous on the fifteenth of July. Cartier, who, of course, sailed in this ship, waited there till the twenty-sixth, when he had the satisfaction of seeing both the other vessels come safely in on the same day.

SEARCH FOR A PASSAGE THROUGH THE LAND.

After remaining a short time in port, to supply the ships with water and to rest and recruit the men, the squadron sailed again, and now commenced the search for a passage through the land that might lead to India. Cartier had two Indian interpreters on board, and he relied on these to enable him to open communication with the natives. These interpreters were the sons of an Indian chief. He had taken them from their native land on a previous voyage which he had made to these shores, with the consent, he says, of

their father, on condition that he should bring them back the following year. These men bore the euphonous names of Taïnoagny and Domagaia.

The Bay of Castles, which was the place of rendezvous for the squadron, is situated, as has already been said, at the entrance of the Strait of Bellisle. The squadron passed down through this



DISCOVERIES OF CARTIER.

strait into the Gulf of St. Lawrence, and after exploring the shores of the gulf for some time they came at length to the mouth of the St. Lawrence River.

The mouth of the St. Lawrence, at its entrance

into the bay, is very wide. It forms, in fact, quite an arm of the sea, and Cartier hoped that it might lead to the long sought for passage to India. The body of water he found was ninety miles wide, and on sounding it in the center of the channel it proved to be more than two hundred fathoms deep; and as the water was salt, he thought it might be really a strait leading between two islands to an open sea beyond.

But the two Indians whom Cartier had with him on board his ships assured him that this was not so. They said that the channel of water before them was really "the beginning of a great river—that the further it went the narrower it came—that after a certain distance it became fresh water, and that this fresh water went so far upward that they had never heard of any man who had gone to the head of it, and that in the upper portion of it there was no passage but with boats." This was discouraging, and Cartier concluded to turn his course in another direction and postpone making an attempt to verify the statement of the Indians in respect to this opening till he had examined other portions of the gulf.

INTERCOURSE WITH THE NATIVES.

He accordingly continued his course along the

coasts of the gulf of St. Lawrence, looking everywhere for a passage opening toward the west, but not finding any. He found many fertile tracts of country, some of which produced noble forests, and were inhabited by powerful tribes of Indians. These Indians often came out to the ships in their canoes, and they were always in such cases very kindly received. They were somewhat cautious, usually, at first, but on being accosted by the interpreters, and being assured by them that the strangers would do them no harm, they were soon persuaded to come on board. They often, moreover, received parties from the ships in their villages on shore, and opened quite a traffic with them, giving them furs, muskmelons, corn, and other productions of the country, in exchange for beads, needles, and toys of various kinds.

THE EXPEDITION ASCENDS THE RIVER.

At length, about the middle of September, Cartier returned to the mouth of the St. Lawrence and began to ascend the river, advancing very cautiously, and examining the shores with great interest as he proceeded. He found the country beautifully wooded. The forests were filled with trees of every variety of foliage, and wild flowers grew in great profusion along the margin of the

water. There were many Indian villages, too, scattered along the banks of the river, each standing in the midst of extensive fields of maize and of gardens, in which pumpkins, beans, and other plants, cultivated by the natives, were growing. The scene, as it presented itself to the view of Cartier's company, gazing upon it from the decks of the ships, as the little squadron slowly advanced on its way, following the windings of the stream, was invested with an indescribable charm. The magnificence and richness of the scenery were greatly heightened, too, by the glowing autumnal tints which were spread over the forests, fields and gardens, at this season of the year.

The party made acquaintance with many of the Indian inhabitants as they ascended the river. The natives were always at first much alarmed, but when they saw the two interpreters, and were accosted by them in their own tongue, and assured that the strangers would not harm them, their fears were allayed, and they came off in great numbers in canoes from the shore. They were ready to sell every thing they possessed for the beads and trinkets which Cartier and his men had ready to offer them, and after making these trades they always went away greatly delighted with their purchases.

DONNACONA.

After three days' sail up the river, the expedition came to the dominions of a chief named Donnacona, whose country was called Canada. Donnacona came down the river from the village where he usually resided, with twelve canoes filled with his men, and the most friendly relations were soon established between the two parties. When the fleet of boats arrived near the ships, Donnacona's canoe came forward in advance of the rest, and the chieftain, standing up in it, made a long speech in a very loud and declamatory style, and with much extravagant gesticulation. Of course, Cartier, who stood upon the deck of his ship, listening very respectfully, could not understand a word of what was said, but his interpreters informed him afterward that it was a speech of friendliness and welcome, and Cartier received it accordingly. He invited Donnacona on board his ship, and there hospitably entertained him, and made him presents of hatchets and knives and other such articles, the receiving of which filled him with astonishment and delight.

After this Cartier went on board the chieftain's boat, to return the visit. He took with him some bread, which, as it was made of wheaten flour,

was entirely new to the natives, and also some wine. With these he treated Donnacona and his personal attendants in the canoe. They were exceedingly pleased with these refreshments. In a word relations were at once established between the Europeans and the Indians of the most friendly character imaginable.

After this the canoes returned up the river to Donnacona's village—the vessels following. Cartier remained at this village for some days, engaged in the most friendly intercourse with the natives all the time, and meeting with a variety of amusing incidents and adventures, which cannot, however, here be detailed. He gave the name of St. Croix to this place.

ACCOUNTS OF HOCHELAGA.

While Cartier was at this village he heard that at a distance of some days' sail further up the river there was a very large and prosperous Indian settlement called Hochelaga, and he received such glowing accounts of the wealth and populousness of this place that he determined to proceed to it. He proposed that Donnacona should go with him. But Donnacona, though at first he seemed to acquiesce in this plan, yet very soon, when he found that Cartier was in earnest in his intentions, set

his face strongly against it. It was supposed that it was a sort of jealousy of the chief of Hochelaga which prompted him to do this, and a desire to monopolize for himself the advantages of the trade which was going on so prosperously at that time between his people and the Europeans.

He endeavored at first to dissuade Cartier from going on, urging various considerations such as he imagined might influence his mind. When he found that his arguments were unavailing he said plainly that Cartier *must* not go. He would not allow it.

Cartier replied coolly that he certainly should go, whether Donnacona allowed it or not.

Donnacona, after considering the subject a little longer, adopted another plan. He came out in his canoe to Cartier's ship, bringing with him a number of attendants, and also three children, a girl and two boys. He brought these children on board the vessel, and there, with great ceremony, he drew a circle upon the deck, and brought Cartier and the children, together with himself, within it. His men stood outside looking on. Donnacona then formally offered the girl to Cartier as a present. She was about twelve or thirteen years of age. He next offered the two boys in the same manner. His men then, standing outside the

circle, immediately shouted out three times with a sort of shriek or yell, terrible to hear. Cartier asked his interpreters what all that meant. They said it was in token of friendship, and the children were presents made by the chieftain to Cartier. They were near relatives of his. The girl was his niece, and one of the boys was his brother.

Cartier then desired the interpreter to express his thanks to Donnacona for his presents, and he was told in reply that they were given to him to induce him to abandon his design of going up the river any further.

Cartier replied that if this were the case Donnacona might take his presents back, for he had been ordered by the king of France, his master, to go as far into the country as he could, and that he should most assuredly proceed.

ATTEMPT TO FRIGHTEN CARTIER BY AN APPARITION.

Donnacona tried one more plan to deter Cartier from going up the river, and that was an attempt to frighten him from it by an apparition of devils. The manner in which the affair was managed was this :

One day, when the two interpreters were on the shore, with some of the other natives, in a wood, there suddenly appeared to Cartier and his men,

on board the vessels, a boat coming out from behind a point of land with three men in it, dressed to represent the Indians' idea of devils. Their faces were blacked, and they were clothed in dog-skins, black and white. They wore horns upon their heads more than three feet long. On the whole, they presented a most hideous aspect. They stood up in the canoe as it passed by the ships, making frantic gesticulations and uttering strange outcries. One of them seemed to be making an oration, talking loud and earnestly, but he did not look toward the ships, nor appear to take any notice of them.

Donnacona, who seems to have been at the time on board Cartier's ship, immediately set off with a number of his men in one or more canoes to pursue the devils. They soon overtook them. The devils immediately fell prostrate in the bottom of their boat, as if dead. Donnacona and his men took them to the shore and conveyed them into the wood, where they were out of sight from the ships, but noises could still be heard in that direction, and very soon there came among them a sound like that of some one in a state of great excitement, making a long speech in loud and very earnest tones, like the screaming of a maniac.

This continued for half an hour. At length

the sound ceased, and very soon afterward Taig-noagny and Domagaia were seen coming out of the wood and hurrying down toward the shore, holding their hands clasped toward heaven, and crying out in a state of great excitement, "Jesu Maria! Jesu Maria!" and uttering other similar exclamations.

Cartier called to them and asked what was the matter. For a time they could not give any intelligible answer, but after being repeatedly questioned they said that those three black men had been sent by the god Cudruaigny to warn all concerned that no one must go up the river, for there was so much ice and snow in the region of Hoch-elaga, that whoever went there would be destroyed.

To this Cartier replied by directing the interpreters to tell the black messengers that their god Cudruaigny was a noddie, and that he did not care anything for him.

"They will see," said he, "that we have a lord and master, Jesus, who will defend us from all cold, if we will put our trust in him."

The interpreters asked Cartier if he had seen Jesus himself. He replied that he had not, but that the priests had seen him, and that he had promised them fair weather for the expedition in ascending the river.

CONTINUED ASCENT OF THE RIVER.

The difficulties were at last all surmounted, and the expedition organized for going up the river was ready. It had been planned to leave the two largest vessels where they were, and only take the smallest one, which they called a pinnace, or, as as they spelled it in those days, a pinasse, and two boats, for the party that was to ascend. It was on the tenth of September that this party set out from St. Croix. They advanced slowly and cautiously, examining everything that they saw by the way with great interest and curiosity. The country was beautiful. Indian villages, surrounded with fields of maize, were scattered along the banks of the river, the intervals between these being filled with splendid forests, in which the voyagers recognized great numbers of oaks, elms, cedars, firs, willows, and ash trees, with great quantities of grape-vines, which were now in full bearing, so that, as the historian of the expedition said in narrating these events, "if any of our fellows went on shore they came home laden with them." They saw, likewise, many cranes, swans, geese, ducks, pheasants, partridges, thrushes, blackbirds, red-breasts, nightingales, sparrows, and a variety of other birds.

The Indians that dwelt along the banks of the river often came out in boats to visit the strangers and to traffic with them. The chiefs brought presents, and among other things they offered Cartier several children. Some of these children he accepted and others he declined.

In fact, the most friendly relations existed between the exploring party and the natives throughout the whole voyage. Whenever the strangers landed the Indians came down to meet them without manifesting the least fear, and Cartier seems to have trusted in an equally implicit manner to them. At one time, when he wished to go on shore at a place where the water shoaled so gradually that his boat could not approach very near, an Indian came out wading to the boat, and Cartier, without any hesitation, mounted upon his back, and was thus carried to the land.

LAKE ST. PETER.

After going on in this manner for many days the expedition arrived at a place where the river expands into a lake fifteen or twenty miles wide. They gave to this sheet of water the name of Lake St. Peter. They explored the shores of this lake in every part, and found some difficulty in ascertaining where the main stream entered it at the

upper end, inasmuch as they found the mouths of several considerable rivers along the borders of it. And when at length they discovered the true place of egress they found the stream so much smaller than it was below, and the navigation, moreover, so much obstructed by rapids, that they concluded not to take the pinnace any further, but to leave her in the lake, and go on up the river with the boats alone.

So the commander caused the boats to be made ready, and loaded them to the water's edge with provisions and other things necessary for the voyage. Of course, a considerable portion of the party were to be left in the pinnace, as only a limited number could be taken in the boats. Several gentlemen, who were attached to the expedition, wished to go on, among whom are mentioned "Claudius of Ponte Briand, cup-bearer of the Lorde Dolphin of France, Charles of Pometaye," and others. With these there were twenty-eight seamen, fourteen for each boat. This number implies that the boats must have been of very considerable size.

The result of the inquiries made by Cartier of the Indians, in respect to the distance from the lake to Hochelaga, led him to judge that it was
one hundred and fifty miles.

APPROACH TO HOCHELAGA.

The boats advanced so slowly in ascending the river that the news of their coming, and of the harmless character of the party, and also of the many curious and wonderful things which they were in the habit of giving and selling to the Indians, preceded them, so that at last, when they began to draw near to the town, being, however, yet at a distance of four or five miles from it, they saw an immense concourse of Indians coming down along the bank of the river to meet and receive them. There were about a thousand persons in this throng—men, women and children. They all came together to the bank of the river, as near as they could get to the boats, and began to toss over presents of bread made of maize, and fishes, and other such things, as tokens of welcome.

Cartier ordered the boats to be turned toward the shore, and he himself and a large portion of his company landed among the natives. They seemed greatly overjoyed at this, and surrounded the strangers with exclamations and gestures indicating the greatest delight. Then they formed lines, the women on one side and the men on the other, and danced and sang for some time. Cartier, in return for this cordial reception, made

presents to some of the principal personages among them, and he made the children. both boys and girls, stand in a row, and then passing along the line he distributed a quantity of tin beads and other such trifles among them, which seemed to gratify them exceedingly.



THE BANKS OF THE ST. LAWRENCE.

When at length Cartier and his company thought it was time for him to return to the boats the

women came and stood in the way and took hold of them playfully, and for a time would not let them go. And when, at last, they obtained their release and returned on board the Indians did not go away, but remained opposite the boats on the land; and when the darkness came on they built great bonfires along the shore and continued their rejoicings around them late into the night.

VISIT TO THE TOWN.

Very early the next morning Cartier and a select portion of his party, leaving the rest to guard the boats, landed and set off to view the town. After going on for three or four miles they met a deputation of the principal inhabitants, that had been sent to receive them. They found the country in the environs of the town occupied with fields of maize which, with the groves of trees around them, presented a charming picture to the eye. On entering the village they were much struck with the size of the houses and the artificial and skillful manner in which they were constructed. They were built of poles and covered with bark, probably birch bark, but they were very large, each one being intended to accommodate many families. They were generally more than a hundred feet long, and thirty or forty wide.

There was one fire-place in the centre of each, with subdivisions of the dwelling all around the sides for the accommodation of the different families.

The town was strongly fortified, too, with a triple wall made of logs of wood, placed in such a manner as to furnish a rampart above, on which the warriors could stand to defend the place in case of an attack, and a great quantity of stones were collected on this rampart as ammunition. The stones were intended to be hurled down upon the enemy below.

There was a very high hill near the town, which Cartier named "Mont Roial," which name remains, under the form of Montreal, to this day.

FIRST OBSERVATION OF TOBACCO.

While they were at this place the party witnessed, for the first time, the Indian practice of smoking tobacco. They described it in the following language :

There groweth also a certaine kind of herbe, whereof in sommer they make great prouision for all the yeere, making great account of it, and onely men use of it, and first they cause it to be dried in the sunne, then weare it about their neckes, wrapped in a little beaft's skinne made like a little bagge, with a hollow piece of stone or

wood like a pipe; then when they please they make powder of it, and then put it in one of the ends of the said cornet or pipe, and laying a cole of fire upon it, at the other end sucke so long that they fill their bodies full of smoke till that it commeth out of their mouth and nostrils, even as out of the fonnel of a chimney. They say that this doth keep them warm and in health; they never go without some of it about them. We ourselves haue tryed the same smoke, and hauing put it in our mouthes it seemed almost as hot as pepper.

RETURN OF THE EXPEDITION DOWN THE RIVER.

The expedition remained several days at this place, and met with a variety of amusing adventures in their intercourse with the natives. At length the party re-embarked on board their boats and returned down the river to Lake St. Peter, where they had left the pinnace. They there returned on board the pinnace, and then continued on their way, meeting with no accident until they reached the river St. Croix, where the two vessels had been left.

It was so late in the season, however, when they arrived here that ice began to form in the river, and Cartier made arrangements for remaining where he was until the spring. Accordingly he put the ships into winter quarters, built a fort on the land, and made all snug for winter.

THE PESTILENCE.

Things went on very well until the middle of December, when Cartier began to hear rumors of a pestilence prevailing among the Indians on the land. It was said that great numbers had died, and that the disease was spreading. Cartier immediately made arrangements to prevent all communication between his men and the natives, but notwithstanding his utmost efforts the disease soon appeared within the fort, and there it spread so rapidly and was so terrible in its ravages, that before long the company was reduced to a condition of extreme distress.

The disease, as the narrator of the history of this voyage described it, appears to have been what is called the sea-scurvy—a dreadful pestilence which in those days often infected ships' crews on long voyages. It was caused generally by the subjects of it having been confined for a long time to a diet consisting of salted provisions, and also to their being reduced in strength by hardships, fatigue, and exposure. The disease, when it once gets a footing in a ship's company, becomes a pestilence of the most dreadful character imaginable. The effects of it are too shocking and horrible to be described—the body becoming under it some-

times a mass of living putrefaction. The disease is now no longer feared, for remedies have been discovered so efficacious that it is perfectly easy at the present day to keep it under complete control, but in the times of which we are writing it was a terrible pest. Whole crews were affected by it. Commodore Anson on one of his voyages lost four-fifths of his men ; and on one occasion a Spanish ship, called the *Oriflamme*, was found drifting at sea, at the mercy of the winds and waves, and those who discovered her, on going on board, found dead bodies lying about upon the decks and in the cabins, but not a single man alive. The whole crew, to the very last man, had been swept away by this terrible disease.

EXTREME DISTRESS AND SUFFERING.

Cartier's company suffered dreadfully under the visitation of the malady. Out of his whole company of more than a hundred, not ten remained well. Great numbers died. Those that were well were not able to take proper care of the sick, and still less had they strength to bury the bodies of the sufferers when they were dead. So they conveyed the bodies away to some distance from the fort and covered them up in the snow. It was all that they could do.

The winter, too, was extremely cold, and this greatly increased the sufferings of the men. The ships were frozen into the ice in the middle of November, and they continued thus imprisoned until the middle of March. The ice, they said, was six feet thick. This, if their estimate was not exaggerated, proves that the winter must have been exceedingly severe.


STRATAGEMS AGAINST THE INDIANS.

Indeed, so extreme was the distress of the company, and so desperate was the condition to which they were reduced, that at one time Cartier gave up all expectation of ever seeing France again. His anxiety was greatly increased, too, by fears that the Indians might turn against him. Certain indications that he observed appeared to denote this. He resorted to a great many artful contrivances to deceive the Indians in respect to the condition of the company while the pestilence was at its height. One of these was a curious ruse that he adopted to prevent them from inferring that a great many of his men were disabled by sickness, from the fact that they saw so few of them, from day to day, outside the fort. He would send out a few well men from the fort into the neighborhood of the Indians, and then he would go after

them and drive them back with sticks and stones and loud scolding, in order to give the Indians to understand that he had work for them to do within, and that they were playing truant. He made signs to the Indians to this effect—denoting that the men ought to be at work with the rest, in repairing and caulking the vessels. In order the better to carry out this idea he required all the men on board the vessels, and also those in the fort who were not so sick as to be utterly helpless, to keep up a great knocking and pounding with sticks and stones, whenever there were any Indians near enough to hear.

RETURN OF THE EXPEDITION

At length, however, the spring came on, and in the mean time a plant had been brought in by the Indians which produced an almost magic effect in staying the ravages of the pestilence. The men who remained alive gradually recovered, and at length, after encountering a great variety of difficulties, and meeting with many strange and curious adventures, the remnant of the expedition was released from its confinement, and set sail for France, though, on account of the diminution of their numbers, they were obliged to leave one of their ships behind them.



THE KIDNAPPING OF DONNACONA.

When the time arrived for the expedition to set sail, Cartier was guilty of an act of treachery against Donnacona of the most inexcusable character. He kidnapped him and carried him with him to France.

This deed was the more censurable from the fact that Donnacona had always acted in a friendly manner toward the expedition, and had in many ways rendered most important services to the whole party. It is true that, toward the end of the winter, Cartier thought he observed certain suspicious appearances which led him to imagine that his pretended friend might be meditating some hostile designs. But there is, after all, no evidence of anything but distrust and fear on the part of Donnacona, and a disposition to take certain precautions with a view of guarding against any ill designs which the strangers might attempt to carry into effect before going away—precautions which, as the event proved, the occasion urgently required.

It seems that Cartier had long been intending to take with him, on his return to France, some native prince or chieftain, in order that he might exhibit him at court, and through the country in Spain, by way of visible token and proof of the

reality of his discoveries; and he had fixed his mind upon Donnacona as the most suitable person to select for this purpose. Accordingly, when the time drew near for the ships to sail, various messages were sent back and forth between the fort and Donnacona's town, and many artful plans contrived, to bring the chief on board the ships—arrangements having been made there to detain him if he should come. But Donnacona was suspicious that some wrong was intended, and he would not venture on board.

DONNACONA'S CUNNING.

At one time when certain messengers whom Cartier had sent to Donnacona's town returned, they brought a proposal from Donnacona which denoted an act of cunning and treachery on his part. It seems there was a certain person in his country named Agonna, who was in some sense his rival and enemy, so that he wished him removed out of the way; and yet the power and influence of Agonna in the tribe was such that he dared not kill him. He accordingly conceived the plan of inducing Cartier to take him on board his ship and carry him to France, and this was the proposal which the messengers of Donnacona

brought back to the fort after their visit to the village.

Cartier sent word in reply that he should have been very happy to have obliged Donnacona by taking the man away, but that it was entirely out of his power to do so, for the king of France, his master, had strictly forbidden him to bring home with him any natives of the country, except two or three boys to learn the language.

This was, of course, false. It was said only for effect, being intended to dispel from Donnacona's mind any suspicions which he might entertain of being kidnapped himself.

The intended effect was produced. Donnacona, although he was still too wary to trust himself on board the ships, was so far thrown off his guard that he was willing to come sometimes, in company with many of his people, across the river to the neighborhood of the fort, and when this point was gained Cartier laid a plan for entrapping him.

THE SEIZURE EFFECTED.

He made preparations for a grand religious celebration, to be performed on the shore in the vicinity of the fort. He set up a large cross, with the arms of the king of France suspended from it, and made arrangements for a solemn procession and

other imposing ceremonies, which he invited all the Indians to attend. They came in great numbers, men, women and children, across the river, some by canoes and some by swimming. In due time Donnacona himself arrived, attended by the two interpreters, Taignoagny and Domagaia, who had also been suspicious of a design on the part of Cartier to take them to Europe again, and were very unwilling to go. Cartier's statement that he had received express orders from the king of France not to bring any more natives to Europe had, however, put them, too, off their guard, and all three came to the celebration without any fear.

In the midst of the ceremonies, and while everybody was intent on observing them, or otherwise occupied with the various excitements of such an occasion, Cartier gave a preconcerted signal, and a company of men, who were all ready beforehand, marched out suddenly from the fort, while at the same moment all those who were standing about the grounds without rushed forward to aid them, and Donnacona, the two interpreters, and two other chieftains that Cartier had pointed out, were seized and hurried within the inclosure.

The other Indians were struck with consternation at this unexpected onset. They fled precipitately in all directions. Some ran into the woods,

others rushed to the boats, while great numbers plunged into the river and swam to the other side. Donnacona and the others who had been taken with him were placed on board the ships and shut up there securely.

DISTRESS OF THE PEOPLE.

The people were thrown into a condition of the deepest distress by the captivity of their prince. They came down that night in great numbers to the river's brink, on the further side, and there called out for a long time in piteous tones to Donnacona, beating their breasts and tearing their hair all the while, and making other barbarous demonstrations of suffering. This continued until the next day at noon, during all which time Cartier would not allow Donnacona to be brought up to speak to them. The people thought that the prisoner had been put to death, and they continually made signs to inquire whether it was so.

At last Cartier concluded to allow Donnacona to appear and speak to his subjects, in hopes that he might pacify them. He first, however, gave him special instructions to "be merrie," and to put a good face upon the matter in representing the case to the people. He charged him, moreover, to tell them that he was only going to make a visit to the

king of France, and that he should be gone only for a short time; that in a year or thereabouts he was sure to return, and that he should bring home with him, for himself and for his people, a great abundance of the richest presents, which the king of France would give him.

Donnacona did as he was bid. It was indeed greatly for his interest now to endeavor in every way to please his captors, as all his hopes, not only of being kindly treated while he was in their power, but of ever being released, depended upon their good will.

Donnacona held much other conversation with the men, but what he said to them was not interpreted, and Cartier did not understand it.

PROVISIONS FOR DONNACONA'S VOYAGE.

A few days after this a boat load of provisions, for Donnacona's use during the voyage, was brought to the ships. This boat was navigated by four women. It was not considered safe for men to come, for fear of their being detained as prisoners too. The women seemed greatly troubled at the captivity of their chief, and Donnacona begged Cartier to say to them himself that he would positively bring him back the next year. This assurance seemed to comfort them somewhat,

and they took from their persons their most valuable ornaments and presented them to Cartier as inducements to lead him to keep his promise. They told him, moreover, that in case he did truly bring Donnacona back, their people would give him far more valuable presents than those.

When the time for the sailing of the ship arrived, the people of the tribe assembled in great numbers on the bank of the river to witness the departure, and to bid their prince farewell. They made Cartier renew again and again his promise to bring him back to them the following year.

Unhappily this promise could not be fulfilled. Donnacona died in France, and although Cartier himself came back the following year, he could only bring to the poor Indians the tidings that their chief was no more.

RESULTS OF CARTIER'S DISCOVERIES.

It was indirectly in consequence of the discoveries and explorations which Cartier made in these expeditions, and of his taking possession of the territories which he visited in the name of the king of France, that the whole country bordering on the St. Lawrence was settled afterward by French colonies, and is inhabited by a French population to the present day.

CHAPTER X.

THE HUDSON RIVER.

HENRY HUDSON.

THE Hudson River—the second, perhaps, of American rivers in respect to political and commercial importance—was discovered, or at least was first entered and explored, by Henry Hudson, one of the most celebrated of the many navigators who in early times made voyages to America, in hopes of finding a way in that direction to India. It was from him, as is well known, that the river received its name.

He was not looking for a river when he entered this stream, but for an open passage leading to the South Seas. When he found, in passing into the channel which opened before him to the northward from the bay, that it was only the mouth of a river that he had discovered, he was disappointed and chagrined. He regarded his coming into it as rather a misfortune and a mistake. After exploring it for a certain distance from its mouth, he returned to what he considered the great and real

purpose of his expedition, namely, the discovery of some open passage into the South Seas. It is curious that posterity has exactly reversed the view which he took of these two elements of his work. His ideas and his efforts in respect to discovering a passage through the land to India are what are now looked upon as the illusions and mistakes of his career, while that which he considered at the time as in some sense an almost useless diversion from his real work, has been the means of gaining for him a very high and enduring fame.

FIRST AND SECOND VOYAGES OF HUDSON.

Hudson made four voyages to the American shores, the two first of which were accomplished in the years 1607 and 1608, and were directed far to the northward. He kept a minute journal of these two voyages, recording carefully in it all that happened each day. The details of his narrative consist chiefly of accounts of fields and mountains of ice seen upon the sea, of the dangers which the ships incurred in sailing among them, of the sterile and iron-bound character of the shore whenever land was in view, of the immense numbers of seals and other such animals that were seen upon the floes, of whales and porpoises in the water, migrat-

ing birds in the air, of fogs, of bitter winds, and rains so cold as almost to disable the ships, by loading the sails and rigging with ice. In a word, he met with and described in full nearly all the peculiar Arctic experiences with which the polar navigators of the last ten years have made the reading world abundantly familiar.

In some cases during these voyages Hudson sent parties of men on shore to examine the country, and to see if they could find anything of value in it. The messengers, however, usually returned, bringing with them only such things as the horns and teeth of animals, tufts of moss, some small specimens of green herbage, and now and then a stone, of some odd or peculiar appearance, which they brought on board under the idea of its possibly containing gold.

They sometimes succeeded in killing a number of birds, and also in taking eggs in considerable quantities from the nests which they found in certain localities. Some of these eggs were eatable and some were not. On one occasion, too, the sailors killed a walrus. There was a small rocky island which a company of these animals had taken possession of, having climbed up upon it in such numbers that the rock was almost completely covered with them. They, however, began to

paddle off into the water the moment that they saw the sailors coming, and they all succeeded in making their escape except one. This one the sailors had the good fortune to kill, and though they left the body where it lay, they cut off the head and carried it on board the ship as a curiosity.

THE THIRD VOYAGE.

The name of the vessel in which Hudson made his third voyage was the *Half Moon*. It was quite a small vessel, and it was manned by a crew of about twenty men. After meeting with various adventures, which it is not important to narrate, the expedition began to draw near to the American shores in the vicinity of Newfoundland. The cod-fishery on the banks of Newfoundland was in full operation long before this time, and in crossing the banks they passed a great number of French fishing vessels, all busily engaged in fishing. In fact, one day it fell calm, and the crew of the *Half Moon* let down their lines to try their own luck for fish, and from eight o'clock to one they caught "one hundred and eighteene great coddes."

LANDING IN PENQUESCOT BAY

The ship lost a foremast in a gale of wind about
; time, and Captain Hudson determined to go

to the land and procure another. So he went on in the direction of the shore, sounding carefully as he advanced; and finding one night, as the darkness came on, that the water was shoaling rapidly, he came to anchor, in order to wait for day. The light of the next morning brought several fine islands in sight. These islands were in Penobscot bay. But before the crew could make sail to proceed toward the shore a fog came up, and the ship was forced to remain where she was. Two boat-loads of savages, however, came off from the shore, apparently much pleased to see the strangers. Captain Hudson received the visitors kindly, and gave them something to eat and drink. He also gave them some baubles as presents. He questioned them about the country, and they told him fine stories of gold, silver and copper mines near by. They said that the French fishermen often landed there. It is probable that it was from them that the natives learned what sort of stories the Europeans liked to hear about the country, and that this was the explanation of the stories they told about the mines.

When the fog cleared up the vessel sailed in toward the land, and presently found a harbor. After placing the ship in a secure position, Captain Hudson sent a portion of the crew on shore to pro-

cure a foremast from the forest. The men cut the tree, fashioned the stem of it into a foremast, and fitted it into its place. Hudson then set sail again and went on, following the coast toward the southward. After proceeding as far in that direction as Chesapeake bay he returned, and at length, in the early part of September, he entered what is now New York bay.

THE SHIP BLOWN ASHORE.

The smallness of the size of the vessels in which these early voyages were made is illustrated very strikingly by the fact that while the Half Moon was lying at anchor in the bay a strong wind came up in the night, which caused the ship to drag her anchor and drift on shore. This did no harm, however, for the vessel took the ground at a place where the bottom was of soft mud. So the seamen remained quietly where they were until the morning. Then, after sending out an anchor in a boat, they manned the capstan, and by the help of the rising tide the crew hauled the ship off into deep water again without any difficulty.

THE INDIANS.

Several canoes came off from the shore to visit the ship, bringing with them green leaves of to-

bacco and other productions of the country. They were clothed generally in deer-skins, and some of them wore mantles very curiously made of feathers. The men had copper tobacco-pipes, and the women various ornaments made of copper.

Captain Hudson afterward sent one or two parties of men on shore, and they returned with very favorable accounts of the beauty of the country. "The lands," they said, "were as pleasant with grasse and flowers and goodly trees as ever they had seene, and very sweet smells came from them."

JOHN COLEMAN.

One of these boat expeditions sent off from the ship to reconnoitre terminated very disastrously. The party set off early in the morning with instructions to examine the channels of water in a certain direction, and take soundings. After proceeding ten or twelve miles up either the North or the East river, and accomplishing the objects for which they had been sent, they were returning at night, thinking of no danger, when they were suddenly set upon by two canoes filled with hostile Indians. It was dark, and it had begun to rain, and their match had been put out, which disabled them from firing. They, however, fought off the

Indians as well as they could, though they had one man killed in the conflict. The name of this man was John Coleman. He was killed by an arrow, which entered his throat.

There were only five men in the boat, including Coleman. The number of Indians in the canoes was nearly thirty. The white men, however, succeeded in driving the Indians away, notwithstanding the disparity of numbers. It was now, however, so dark and rainy that nothing could be seen, and the boatmen had no means of knowing which way to go to find the ship. They accordingly spent the night in beating about the bay, keeping the dead body of their comrade in the boat. The morning brought the ship into view, and they soon reached her and were received again on board. The body of Coleman was buried afterward at a point of land on Sandy Hook, which consequently received the name of Coleman's point.

Captain Hudson immediately after this brought up the boat which was used on these excursions, and hoisted it on board the ship, and then set the carpenters at work to build up the sides of it higher, so that they might on future occasions afford some shelter to the men. While this work was going on quite a large company of Indians
on board, and Captain Hudson watched them

to see if they showed any signs, while looking at the alterations which the carpenters were making in the boat, of being aware of the attack which had been made upon it, and of the death of Coleman. But they appeared so innocent and unconcerned that he concluded that they did not know anything about the affair.

He accordingly did not molest them, but after trading with them as usual he allowed them to go away in peace. He, however, soon afterward detained two of the natives who came on board, and while they remained prisoners he dressed them in red coats, like the English soldiers. These prisoners continued on board the ship a few days, but then, watching their opportunity, they leaped overboard and swam ashore.

ASCENT OF THE RIVER.

On the 12th of September Captain Hudson commenced his ascent of the river, and he went on until the 22d, advancing a few miles each day and making careful observations as he proceeded. It was necessary, of course, to move very cautiously, the channel being entirely unknown. His method was to send a boat forward eight or ten miles at a time to take soundings, and by this means to find the course of the channel. On the return of the

boat, if the report was favorable and the wind was fair, the vessel advanced, following the track thus marked out. In this manner the ship went gradually on till it passed Tappaan Bay and the Highlands, and had ascended to some considerable distance beyond. At length Captain Hudson arrived at a point of the river so high that the boat, in returning from its reconnoissance, reported that it was not safe to proceed any further. Captain Hudson then turned his course again down the stream. The boat went up twenty or thirty miles above the highest point reached by the ship.

INTERCOURSE WITH THE INDIANS.

Captain Hudson found the banks of the river occupied by Indian settlements all the way, and he had a great deal of intercourse with the natives both in going and returning. They came out to visit the ship very often in their canoes, and sometimes the numbers that came was so great that it was thought not prudent to admit them on board. In fact, Captain Hudson deemed it necessary to be continually on his guard against any act of treachery or surprise, or other hostile movements which they might attempt; for, although they professed great friendship, and brought many articles to the ship to exchange for what the white men could

give them, it was perfectly well understood that their friendship could not be relied upon for a moment if they should once find that the intruders, as they must, of course, have considered them, were in their power.

AN INDIAN PUT TO THE TEST.

On one occasion the company on board the ship resorted to an artifice that is often employed in highly civilized life for the purpose of discovering secrets, with a view to ascertain whether a certain party of Indians were covertly entertaining any hostile intentions against them, and that was by making one of the principal chiefs tipsy. They selected one who, from his appearance, they judged would probably be communicative when under the excitement of intoxicating drink, and they plied him and his companions so freely with wine and brandy—paying special attention to him in their offerings—that in the end he himself, and also some of the rest, became completely intoxicated. The company endeavored, by every means in their power, to draw from the tipsy man some revelation of the designs of his party, and continued their efforts, though without any result, as long as any intelligence remained in him. At length their poor victim sank into a state of complete insen-

sibility, and remained in that condition many hours, greatly to the amazement and concern of his friends.

MODESTY OF THE WOMEN.

In several instances during this voyage the chiefs brought their wives with them to see the ships. Captain Hudson and his men were much struck with the modesty and propriety of demeanor which these female visitors observed while in the presence of the strangers. They sat quietly and decently, he said, and were in all respects as modest and gentle in their manners as any of the most high-bred ladies in England would have been in paying a visit to a foreign vessel in an English harbor.

APPROACH TO THE HIGHLANDS IN DESCENDING THE RIVER.

The attention of Captain Hudson was strongly attracted to the appearance of the Highlands as he approached them in coming down the river. He notes the smooth and beautiful appearance of the country above the line where the mountains commence, and the suddenness of the change which here takes place in the whole character of the scenery, the narrow, tortuous and dangerous channel, bordered by lofty mountains rising from the very

brink of the water, the angular turns which the river makes, and the sharp rocks and bold promontories which here and there project into the stream.

The vessel arrived at the borders of the Highlands about three o'clock in the afternoon, but as the tide was at the ebb at that time, and the day was somewhat spent, Captain Hudson did not think it safe to proceed that night, but came to anchor, in order to wait until the next morning before going on, "for the reason," as he said, "that the land hath many high points and narrow channells, which occasion many eddie winds. So we rode quietly all night in seven fathoms water."

The next morning the wind blew up the river very fresh, and Captain Hudson deemed it unsafe to attempt to pass through the mountains. So he remained at his anchorage all that day, looking at the towering summits before him, and receiving from time to time different parties of Indians from the neighborhood, who came in their canoes to visit the ship.

As for "the mountaynes," they looked, as he thought, "as if some metall or minerall were in them. For the trees that grow on them were all blasted, and some of the mountaynes were barren, with few or no trees on them."

AN INDIAN CHIEF.

After remaining a day and two nights weather-bound at the entrance to the Highlands, Captain Hudson found the wind fair on the morning of the third day, and he accordingly then made sail and continued his voyage down. The distance, as he calculated it, was about twenty miles. When the Highland region had been safely passed, Captain Hudson came to anchor again, and many Indians from the mountain region came on board the vessel, wondering at the magnitude of the ship, and at the weapons possessed by the white men.

When the ship set sail again, to continue her voyage down the river, the pilot observed that among other canoes hovering near there was one with a single man in it, which followed close behind, keeping all the time under the stern. The men on board made signs to this man again and again, ordering him to go away, but he did not heed them, and finally, watching an opportunity when he was not observed, he climbed up by the rudder into the cabin windows and stole the pillows from the Captain's berth, and several articles of clothing. He succeeded in getting off with these things unobserved, and in taking them down board his canoe by the same way that he had

come up. The mate of the vessel saw him, however, as he was paddling away with his booty, and seizing a gun, fired at him. The ball struck him in the breast and killed him on the spot.

There were at the same time a number of Indians on board the ship, or in canoes alongside, and when they saw their countryman killed, they immediately fled. Those that were in the vessel leaped overboard and escaped by swimming, while those that were in the canoes began at once to paddle away in all directions.

At the same time the ship's boat was manned, and a party was sent off to the canoe in which the dead body of the thief was lying, in order to recover the stolen goods. While they were going toward the canoe, one of the Indians that was swimming in the water came up and seized the boat by the gunwale, and commenced rocking it to and fro, in order to upset it. Seeing this, a boatman seized a sword and cut off one of the man's hands at a blow. The poor savage fell back from the boat, disabled as he was by the wound, and overcome with agony and terror, he sank into the water and rose no more.

END OF THE VOYAGE IN THE RIVER.

At length, after the lapse of about five weeks

from the time of entering the river, Captain Hudson reached the mouth of it again on his return. He experienced some difficulty in getting safely out to sea, having, of course, no chart, and no proper means, except by sending a boat out beforehand to take soundings, for finding the channels. He consequently lost his way in some degree among the shoals and sand-bars, and finally found himself in considerable danger of running aground. He, however, went cautiously on, and at length succeeded in getting into deep water.

"By twelve of the clocke," says the original narrator of this story, "we were cleere of the inlet. Then we tooke in our boat and set our mayne-sayle and sprit-sayle and our top-sayles, and steered away east south-east and south-east by east, off into the mayne sea."

SUBSEQUENT HISTORY OF HUDSON.

In the year 1610, Hudson made another voyage to the American shores—a voyage that terminated in the most disastrous manner. A very full and graphic account of all that happened was written by one of the ship's company, and a mere piteous tale of distress and suffering than this narrative presents it would be impossible for any imagination to conceive.

The vessel, after encountering the usual dangers and vicissitudes of such a voyage, at length became beset in the ice, and was borne away so far by the drift of the floes, and detained so long by this imprisonment, and by contrary winds, that the provisions fell short, and the scarcity increased to such a degree that at length it was evident that there was not food enough remaining to maintain the men, even on the most stinted allowance, during the time necessary for returning to England. This state of things plunged the whole company into the greatest despondency.

HENRY GREENE.

Besides the suffering and danger resulting from this scarcity of provisions, insubordination and discord reigned supreme on board the ship. Captain Hudson seemed to have his men very little under his command. He had a young man on board named Henry Greene, who acted as his secretary, and was in some sense his favorite. Greene was an unprincipled and desperate man, dissipated and vicious. He was not regularly one of the ship's company—his name not being on the books. He was taken on board on the private responsibility of Captain Hudson, who, for some reason or other, had taken a fancy to him. The rest of the com-

pany were jealous of Greene, and of the favoritism with which the captain treated him. Some of their complaints were based on grounds which would seem to be of an extremely frivolous character, but the animosity and hatred which they engendered were none the less decided on that account. One of the most violent of the disputes and altercations which occurred commenced in a difficulty that arose out of the disposition made of the clothes of a sailor who had died, particularly of a certain gray cloth gown.

THE GUNNER'S GRAY CLOTH GOWN.

The gunner died, and among the effects that he left was a gray gown or jacket. It was the custom to sell the clothes and other property of the sailors dying at sea in those days, at the foot of the mainmast, to the highest bidder, and many of the crew were desirous of purchasing the gown. But the captain, in the exercise of his favoritism, forestalled them by making a bargain with Greene for it, at private sale. This, of course, greatly incensed all the rest of the company. They loudly complained of the injustice of the proceeding, and the whole ship was full of the criminations and recriminations of the different parties to the quarrel. It was amazing that such a quarrel could arise

from an occurrence like this in a ship's company already in a condition of the deepest distress, and with the horrors of actual starvation closely impending over them.

THE CAPTAIN QUARRELS WITH GREENE.

After exciting the enmity of all the rest under his command by his undue partiality for Greene, the captain ended by quarreling with Greene himself, so as in effect to cut himself off almost entirely from the friendly feeling and sympathy of his men. He had a difficulty with the carpenter about building a hut on shore. After hesitating and delaying a long time, he had finally concluded, when all hope of returning to England for the season was gone, to undertake this work, and he gave orders to the carpenter accordingly. The carpenter said it was now too late. The weather was so cold and stormy that it would be impossible to manage such work. He could not and he *would* not undertake building in the midst of so much frost and snow. When Captain Hudson heard this reply he abused the carpenter in the most violent manner. He pulled him out of his cabin to beat him, and threatened to hang him. The carpenter answered that he knew his own business, and that

Hudson was the captain of the ship, not the carpenter. The captain went away in a rage.

The next day the carpenter was going on shore, and as the rule was that no one should go on shore alone, Henry Greene went with him as his comrade and friend. This the captain considered as a token and sign that Greene was disposed to take sides with the carpenter against him, and this caused him to turn the current of his anger from the carpenter to Greene. He declared that, after all, Greene should not have the gray jacket. Greene urged the captain's promise. The captain replied with bitter vituperation. He told Greene that he was a worthless fellow, and that the best friends he had in the world would not trust him for twenty shillings, and he did not see why *he* should be expected to give him credit any more than they.

THE MUTINY.

It would make a very long story to relate in full the gradual progress of insubordination and contention which ensued, and to describe the successive steps by which this wretched crew sank into those fearful depths of distress and misery which the continual increase of cold and hunger

¹ their own terrible quarrels brought upon them.

The end was, that after passing through scenes of violence and suffering too dreadful to be described, a portion of the crew, headed by Greene, formed a conspiracy to put the captain, and with him all the sick and dying men on board the ship, eight in number, into a boat and leave them in the open sea, while they themselves attempted to make their way to England.

The scene presented on board the vessel when the mutineers rose to carry this scheme into effect, and were engaged in putting the men on board the boat, was horrible in the extreme. Some of their victims submitted quietly in silent despair. Others resisted with all the strength that remained to them, making frantic efforts and uttering piercing cries. Two of the wretched men had friends among the crew, who endeavored to make their cases exceptions, and this led to violent disputes among the mutineers themselves, some declaring that these men should not go, others swearing with horrid imprecations that they should go, and offering to fight, if necessary, in order to carry their determination into effect.

Captain Hudson, who had been seized and secured at the outset, had his hands tied behind him, and was compelled to submit helplessly to whatever his reckless enemies chose to do.

THE LAST THAT WAS EVER KNOWN OF CAPTAIN HUDSON.

When all the men were put on board the boat, the boat itself was dropped astern, and there taken in tow by the ship and conveyed, with its dreadful burden of suffering and despair, out of the bay or harbor where these events had taken place. Then she was cut loose, and the ship sailed on, leaving her to her fate.

The mutineers did not abandon the party in the boat in this manner with the bare and naked intention of murdering them. They considered that they were giving them at least a chance for their lives. They furnished them with some small supply of provisions, and the boat was fitted with a sail. They might possibly find a refuge among the natives somewhere upon the coast for a time, and finally be saved by some other European vessel visiting those shores. Or, even if they followed the ship to sea, they might there meet with some other vessel by which they might be rescued.

One of the men who was to go in the boat, in fact, just before he was put into it, begged one of those on board the ship to say to the natives at a certain place on the coast, where the ship was to stop in hopes of obtaining provisions, before finally

putting to sea, that the boat was coming on, and to ask them to save something for them too. This the person who was entrusted with the message promised that he would do.

On the next day after the boat had been left, while the ship was loitering near the shore, making some preliminary arrangements before putting to sea, there was a cry on board that the boat was coming in sight. They immediately spread all their sails and hastened on, as if flying from an enemy.

The ship, after cruising about those shores for some time, seeking for provisions, sailed for England, and the crew, after encountering hardships and sufferings which it would seem impossible for human beings to survive, at length reached a port in Ireland, and a remnant of them were saved, though they were soon afterward seized and committed to prison, to answer for their crime.

The boat in which Captain Hudson had been left was never heard of more.

CONCLUSION.

We have thus narrated some of the principal voyages of discovery made in early times to the American shores. It was the work of about a hundred years to trace in this manner the great

leading outlines of the continent, and to make them known to the European world, so as to prepare the way for the successful colonization of the country. These hundred years are comprised substantially in the sixteenth century. The succeeding century, the seventeenth, was devoted mainly to the work of planting the country thus explored, with the germs of a new and superior population.

Thus, the sixteenth century was the century of discovery; the seventeenth that of settlement; and the eighteenth that of the union of the various political communities that had been formed, and the establishment, through this union, of a grand, independent, and consolidated empire. The successive steps of the progress by which this vast movement advanced to its final consummation will be developed in the succeeding volumes of this series.

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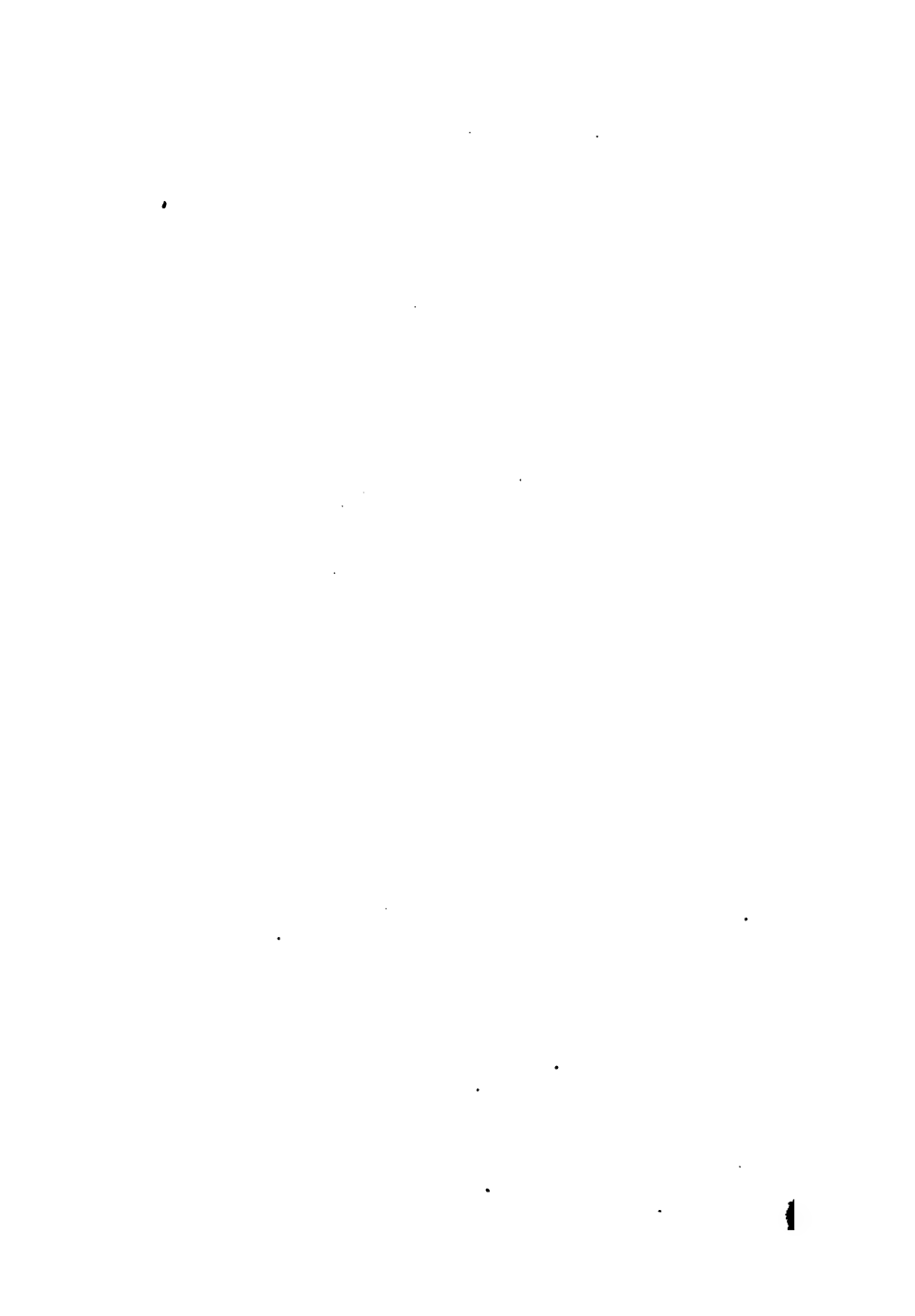
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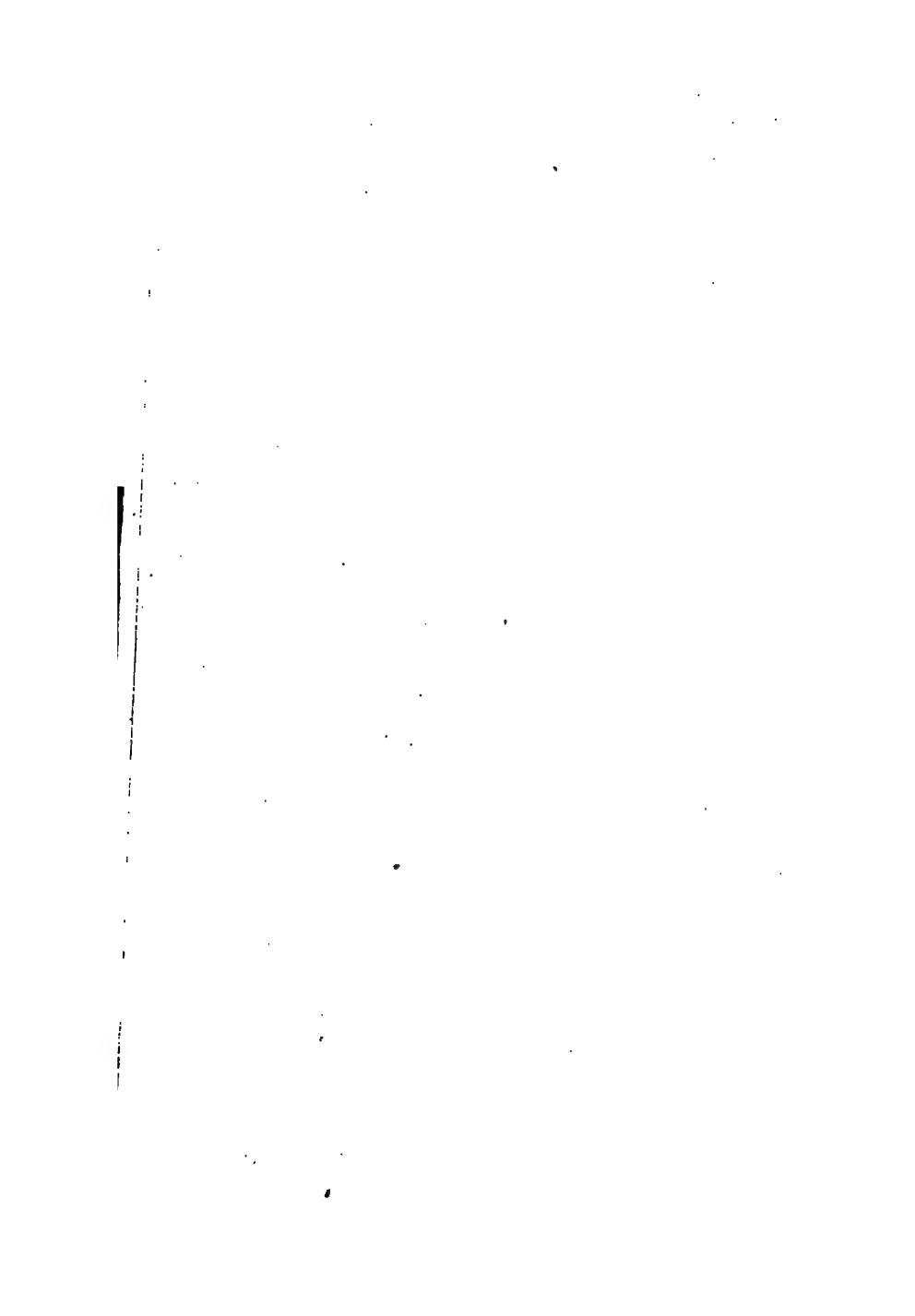
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